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GLOBAL MECHANISM

REVIEW, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 21, PARAGRAPH 5(d), OF THE CONVENTION, OF THE REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM, AND THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE TO IT

Note by the secretariat

1. Pursuant to decision 24/COP.1, the Global Mechanism (GM) is requested to provide reports to the sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) on its activities, including in these reports the following:

(a) The operations and activities of the GM, including the effectiveness of its activities in promoting the mobilization and channelling of the substantial financial resources to affected developing country Parties;

(b) The assessment of future availability of funds for implementation of the Convention, as well as assessment and proposals for effective ways and means of providing such funds.

2. At its fourth session, the Conference of the Parties, by its decision 6/COP.4 on the Global Mechanism:

(a) Recalling that the second review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism will take place at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Took note of the reports on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/4 and Add.1, as well as of the report of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/Add.2.

3. Annexed hereto is the report of the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties.

Report of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism on behalf of the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development[1] to the fifth Conference of the Parties

Rome, 27 July 2001

ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Global Mechanism (GM) report to COP 5, which covers the 2000/2001 biennium, is presented by the Managing Director (MD) of the GM on behalf of the President of IFAD (art. 3B, annex 1 of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between IFAD and the COP). The report presents the background and rationale for GM interventions in partnership building and resource mobilization, an overview of GM activities in 2000/2001, and a preview of the way forward.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR GM INTERVENTIONS

Under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), "desertification" is defined as "land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, resulting from various factors, including climate variations and human activity". In view of the multi-sectoral nature of interventions required to address issues of land degradation, and the diversity in the sources of funding to be tapped to this end, the Global Mechanism was established to help rationalise the allocation of resources and to mobilize additional financing, as appropriate. Consequently, the GM is demand-driven, lean and efficient, and guided by principles of neutrality and universality.

One basic premise of the UNCCD is that land degradation is both a cause and effect of rural poverty. Consequently, the renewed global commitment to alleviate poverty offers encouraging prospects for implementation of the Convention in affected country Parties, by linking national action programmes (NAPs) with the poverty reduction strategies. This said, the mobilization of resources to combat land degradation remains a challenge, in view of the overall decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA), compounded by the reduction of the ODA portion directed to agriculture and rural development.

Experience has shown that the prospects for effective resource mobilization are, *inter alia*, contingent upon the ability of the concerned governments to mainstream the NAPs and subregional action programmes (SRAPs) into national and sector planning frameworks, and to create synergies between conventions. The barriers which exist are often related to policy harmonization, institutional coordination, beneficiary participation, the lack of a dependable information system with reliable financial (flows and sources of funds), socio-economic (production and income) and environmental (desertification, erosion of biodiversity) indicators. The above processes and barriers to them remain a strategic challenge for both the developed and developing country Parties.

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[1] The report is reproduced without formal editing by the Convention secretariat.

GLOBAL MECHANISM ACTIVITIES IN 2000/2001

Operational strategy

The Global Mechanism, in accordance with its mandate, has adopted an operational strategy aimed at:

- taking advantage of existing regular funding sources, by internalizing the objectives of the national and subregional action programmes (NAPs and SRAPs) to combat desertification into the governments' regular planning and budgeting processes and donors' normal programming cycles;

- exploring opportunities to tap new and additional resources beyond classical ODA funding and debt relief, with special emphasis on the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the private sector (foundations and corporations) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as other opportunities for funding and technical assistance through decentralized cooperation.

Global Mechanism functions and outputs

In a number of countries and (sub-)regions, the GM has undertaken, on request, to provide technical or financial assistance in 2000/2001. They include, but are not limited to: Algeria, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Central Asian Countries, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Haiti, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. GM assistance is related to the formulation or implementation of the NAPs in the countries above, or SRAPs in North Africa, West, East and Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West and Central Asia. In accordance with the functions assigned to the Global Mechanism by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNCCD and in the light of the first review of GM policies, operational modalities and activities, the response of the GM to a growing number of requests for assistance has evolved along the following lines:

- Collecting and disseminating information;
- Analysing and advising on request;
- Promoting actions leading to cooperation and coordination;
- Facilitating the mobilization and channelling of financial resources.

Collecting and disseminating information: Following the presentation of the Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD) at COP 4, the GM has pursued its efforts towards full-scale implementation of the system, particularly aimed at establishing a decentralized and participatory knowledge-sharing approach. In this connection, initiatives have been taken to collect relevant data from a multitude of bilateral and multilateral sources, and to involve the stakeholders in developing and testing the functional and technical features of the FIELD system on a pilot basis.

Analysing and advising on request: Matching supply and demand effectively, for investment in land degradation control, requires a proper understanding of the processes conducted by governments and development partners in their efforts to mainstream the Convention's objectives, and the products generated from such processes. Consequently, the GM has supported the preparation and facilitation of regional and subregional consultations on approaches to resource mobilization. The

GM has also responded to specific government requests for assistance to move from planning (NAPs) to action (field investments). In 2000/2001 the GM has, in collaboration with its Facilitation Committee, facilitated a number of support activities, including:

- assistance in analysis and advice on the coherence between the NAPs and the provisions of the UNCCD and the linkages between NAPs and sectoral and national planning frameworks;

- assistance in the identification of the interface between NAPs and poverty reduction strategies;

- capacity-building (assessment of the requirements and identification/analysis of the opportunities);

- support to diagnostic reviews of root causes of land degradation;

- comparative reviews of possible linkages between investment priorities under NAPs and the ongoing or planned donor-funded projects;

- elaboration of donor profiles and promotion of data base development at country and subregional levels;

- analysis of investment gaps and the prospective financing mechanisms required to fill them.

Promoting cooperation and coordination: The GM is promoting cooperation and coordination, in the context of its strategic alliances involving policy dialogue and operational collaboration, with a number of institutions as regards their respective corporate strategies, and with regard to activities at country and (sub) regional levels. The main constituencies with which the GM is forging strategic partnerships include:

- the GM Facilitation Committee (comprising IFAD, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the UNCCD secretariat, the GEF secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the regional development banks (the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB));

- (sub) regional organizations with specific mandates and/or interest in the UNCCD;

- the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) institutions;

- bilateral agencies; and

- the NGO community.

The GM has adopted a strategy that fosters a process of "constructive engagement" between all stakeholders. The process brings together developed country Parties, multilateral institutions, affected country Parties and civil society in developing a common vision and commitment to address dryland issues. The process involves joint missions with bilateral and multilateral partners to assess the needs of a country or subregion, and to initiate dialogue with the appropriate ministries and civil society at the national level. These initial activities facilitate the exchange of information, identify overlaps in donor programming, assess the enabling environment, and elevate the profile of the UNCCD. They also set the stage for development of complementary programmes interventions and identify areas in need of substantial investment, and pave the way for the integration of the NAP into a national development plan, which funding agencies will consequently be able to finance through existing channels.

Mobilizing and channelling resources: The GM has used voluntary contributions from certain governments and development institutions as catalytic funding to forge partnerships, with a view to mobilizing larger amounts of financial resources. In other words, the catalytic support from the GM generates a multiplier effect by levering, over time, substantial investments from governments and their development partners to combat land degradation and poverty in affected countries. The GM is not conceived as a single funding source for the UNCCD. As a matter of fact, the great bulk of resources for investments in land degradation control will be directly transferred to recipient governments and civil society organizations, by way of specific partnership agreements with the donor agencies. In this context, the GM's catalytic resources have helped facilitate a number of activities that resulted in mobilization of GEF and regular ODA resources for land degradation control in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

While there are concrete illustrations of the multiplier effect of GM interventions, the process of internalization of the UNCCD at country level is still at an early stage, hence the difficulty in estimating the financial resources needed over a given time period. In the near future, (i.e. by the end of 2001 for some affected countries, and 2002 for many others) the GM will be in a position to assist governments, upon request, in setting realistic targets for resource mobilization.

The GM's efforts to mobilize and channel resources reflects a multi-pronged approach involving a systematic review of the country cooperation frameworks of multilateral and bilateral agencies, to identify options for support to NAPs/SRAPs within such frameworks. This exercise is under way in the case of IFAD and it is anticipated that, out of a total annual lending programme of US$ 400-450 million, at least 25-30% could be dedicated to projects and programmes directly relevant to UNCCD objectives in the concerned countries. It is also recognized that GM can provide support to IFAD operational divisions to mobilize GEF planning grants and GEF project funding, in order to address regional or global environmental concerns, thereby enhancing the environmental sustainability of IFAD's poverty-oriented interventions. The GM is performing a similar exercise with other financing institutions in the context of a "business plan" approach within the GM's Facilitation Committee. Likewise, the ongoing inventory of private sector foundations will provide the basis for identification of the interface between the NAP priority areas and the strategic thrust of such private funding sources.

The multi-pronged approach also entails support to affected country Parties for the generation of a pipeline of programmes and projects for GEF funding, on the basis of the NAP. On several occasions, the GM has contributed to generating new project ideas and has co-financed the development of GEF funded concept notes (PDF-As) followed by successful requests for planning grants (PDF-Bs). In these cases, the GM was also entrusted with the responsibility to mobilize co-financing from other sources, to match GEF contributions. Such experiences illustrate the potential of the GM as an institutional partner discharging, in a unique manner, the conceptual function of helping governments to build a bridge between the NAPs process and the GEF country dialogue workshops and the development of the GEF portfolio at country and transnational levels. As such, GM interventions add value to the activities of the Global Environment Facility Secretariat (GEFSEC) and GEF implementing agencies.

Communications strategy

The approach of the GM is based on the same paradigm as that adopted for resource mobilization, i.e. a multi-sectoral convention requires a multi-source, multi-funding approach. In other words, the GM must capitalize on the respective communications strategies of various stakeholders to the Convention (governments, inter-governmental organizations, specialized agencies, NGOs and farmers' organizations, and so on), to ensure that such strategies integrate messages aimed at promoting UNCCD objectives.

On these grounds, the GM will collaborate with its partners in order to elaborate specific messages, aimed at carefully identified target audiences, through separate or joint communications tools as appropriate (web sites, CD ROMs, documentaries, publications, etc.), with the ultimate view of facilitating partnerships and mobilizing resources.

The starting point of this strategy is the premise that many well-intentioned drylands advocates are experiencing great difficulty in convincing their colleagues in Ministries of Finance and/or Planning, or in donor agencies, that investments in drylands development make economic sense.

Yet, the broad findings from long-term studies of drylands development are that drylands people are remarkably resilient and have succeeded in increasing their incomes in sustainable ways, and in coping with all but the most severe natural calamities. This process has entailed on-farm innovation in low-risk techniques and activities, and developing off-farm income sources which are often, but not always, invested in on-farm activities. A thriving agricultural economy is clearly a necessary condition for successful drylands development, but is not sufficient alone.

THE WAY FORWARD AND NEXT STEPS

There is a growing consensus among the Country Parties to the UNCCD of the relevance of the GM as an institution which holds promise to help rationalize and improve allocation of resources to address land degradation through multi-sectoral intervention. The efforts of the GM to fulfil its mandate are recognized, as well as its increasing responsibilities, as reflected in the Co-Chairman's Conclusions and Recommendations to the Ad Hoc Working Group on UNCCD implementation.

while in future the GM would pursue its ongoing efforts to assist, on request, in the mainstreaming of the NAP on both the demand and supply sides of the financial resource equations, opportunities to use other institutional relays (specialized agencies, inter-governmental bodies) would be considered. At the same time the analytical and advisory role of the GM would be more and more focused not only on enhancing GEF support to the UNCCD, but also to exploring new sources of funding. Finally, the GM would play a sustained brokering role in the area of capacity building and knowledge networking.

In order to consolidate the achievements of the first 18 months over the 2000/2001 biennium, and to respond to new challenges in UNCCD implementation, a number of GM initiatives have been taken and need immediate follow up, including:

- Consolidating GM human resource development and internal organization, in response to growing external demands for support, coupled with strengthening of operational collaboration (through a "Business Plan" approach) with relevant partners;

- Facilitating, in collaboration with relevant partners, the organization of, and follow-up to the Coordination Meetings on Partnership Building and Resource Mobilization;

- Replicating, with necessary adjustments, the partnership frameworks that hold promise for resource mobilization; making operational a GEF code within the GM's existing organizational structure, to enhance GM's response capacity, in view of emerging opportunities to mobilize GEF resources (and related co-financing) in a more predictable way;

- Exploring the opportunities for follow-up on decision 29/COP.1, annex, para.4, which recommends that "the GM be granted observer status on the GEF Council";

- Reviewing country cooperation frameworks of multilateral financing institutions and other members of the GM Facilitation Committee, with a view to enhancing the land degradation thrust of their respective country portfolios;

- Continuing to give support to GM-spearheaded, collaborative action research on "drylands success stories", as part of the GM's Communications Strategy for resource mobilization and as a contribution to knowledge networking;

- Completing the ongoing inventory of private foundations and identifying the interface between their respective focal areas and the strategic thrusts of the UNCCD and the opportunities for supporting specific NAP-related activities and projects in selected countries and (sub)regions;

- Monitoring progress (as recommended by decision 9/COP.1, para.8) in relevant inter-governmental negotiations and pursuing dialogue with relevant constituencies, with a view to identifying opportunities for resource mobilization. Special attention will be paid to immediate follow-up on the recent signing of the Kyoto Protocol and the exploration of opportunities for, inter alia, carbon trading and the Clean Development Mechanism as well as the Adaptation Fund;

- Undertaking, at the same time (as requested by decision 9/COP.3, para. 12), to clarify the possibilities for economic and trade opportunities arising from and relating to the Convention;

- Elaborating a strategic plan for collaboration on information systems with each of the Facilitation Committee members and relevant bilateral partners as well as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC).

On the basis of the above, it is of critical importance that the level of the GM Core Budget be accordingly reconsidered by COP 5 - without prejudice to voluntary contributions - in order to keep up with increasing requests for GM assistance and the need to seize - through the multiplier effect of GM catalytic funding - the emerging opportunities for resource mobilization for affected countries.

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INTRODUCTION

The present report to the fifth Conference of the Parties (COP) is submitted by the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism on behalf of the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), pursuant to relevant provisions (Art. III.B, annex 1) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and IFAD as the GM's housing institution.

The report covers the 2000/2001 biennium, in order to place GM interventions in perspective. It therefore includes not only an account of GM interventions since COP 4, but also references to GM activities during the first nine months of 2000 (already discussed in the GM report to COP 4), as well as a projection of planned activities to the end of the 2001 calendar year.

PART ONE: BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR GLOBAL MECHANISM INTERVENTIONS

A. The Global Mechanism: Guiding principles and action areas

Guiding principles

Under the UNCCD, "desertification" is defined as "land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, resulting from various factors, including climate variations and human activity". Given the multi-sectoral nature of interventions required to address issues of land degradation, and the diversity in the sources of funding to be tapped to this end, the Global Mechanism was established to help rationalize the allocation of resources and to mobilize additional financing, as appropriate.

National, subregional and regional action plans (NAPs, SRAPs and RAPS) provide the framework for UNCCD implementation. Under the UNCCD, such plans should be closely linked with other efforts to formulate policies for sustainable development. In other words, the issue of desertification is very closely linked to the development process itself. In this context, special attention is given to all aspects of sustainable rural development and to poverty alleviation, including access to and control of natural resources, support to alternative rural livelihoods and access to socio-economic infrastructure and services.

Approached from this perspective, it can be understood that the Global Mechanism is not a central fund, duplicating existing funding sources and mechanisms, but rather a brokering institution which helps to rationalize the allocation of resources and mobilize additional financial resources, where necessary. This process involves drawing on the classical funding instruments of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies as well as GEF resources and other sources of funds.

The guiding principles which underpin the utilization of the catalytic resources available to the Global Mechanism are set out in decision 25/COP.1, and are intended to ensure that the Global Mechanism is:

- responsive to the needs and priorities of the Parties to the UNCCD;
- non-duplicative of existing mechanisms and facilities, instead adding value to them;

- lean and efficient, drawing on other institutions, including its housing institution, and the United Nations system-wide capacities and facilities;

- neutral and universal in its operations.

Action areas

Intervention by the Global Mechanism, at the request of Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, is undertaken with the following rationale:

- To help coordinate resource mobilization for the formulation and implementation of NAPs. To this end, NAPs are harmonized and interfaced with relevant Government strategies at sectoral or national level, and with the regular assistance programmes of technical and financial cooperation agencies;

- To facilitate a concerted approach to resource mobilization for the formulation and/or implementation of regional and subregional action programmes (RAPs and SRAPs), paying special attention to the issues of transboundary ecosystems, cross-fertilization of experiences, and harmonization of policies;

- To contribute to developing innovative approaches to cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and to promote stakeholder mobilization and networking, for the transfer of technology, capitalization of traditional knowledge and information management;

- To establish in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and with decisions 24/COP.1, 25/COP.1 and 9/COP.3, an inventory of bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes as well as other sources and channels of funding available for implementing the Convention. This inventory is being organized in the form of a decentralized knowledge management system called the Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD), which also includes a database on good practices, projects and the financial needs of affected developing country Parties in developing action programmes and other activities relating to the implementation of the Convention.

B. Poverty reduction: An overarching development objective

One of the basic premises of the UNCCD is that land degradation is both a cause and a consequence of rural poverty. Consequently, the renewed global commitment to alleviate poverty - as evidenced in the Millennium Declaration by world leaders in September 2000 under the aegis of the United Nations - offers encouraging prospects for implementation of the Convention in affected country Parties, by linking national NAPs with poverty reduction strategies.

Bilateral and multilateral development agencies have identified poverty reduction as a primary goal for their respective interventions. However, the mobilization of resources to combat land degradation remains a tremendous challenge, given the overall decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA), compounded by the reduction of the ODA portion directed to agriculture and rural development.

In response to these challenges, over the past two years and in accordance with its mandate, the Global Mechanism has adopted an operational strategy aimed at:

- internalizing the objectives of the NAPs to combat desertification, into the Governments' regular planning and budgeting processes as well as into the donors' normal programme cycle;

- exploring opportunities to tap new and additional resources beyond classical ODA funding and debt relief, with special emphasis on the GEF, the private sector (foundations and corporations) and NGOs, as well as other opportunities for funding and technical assistance through decentralized cooperation;

To this end, the GM has used its own resources to build up partnerships and to generate a multiplier effect levering, over time, substantial investments to combat land degradation and poverty in affected countries.

C. Mainstreaming the UNCCD: Challenges and opportunities

It is clear from recent experience with UNCCD implementation in various regions that the prospects for effective resource mobilization are, *inter alia*, contingent upon:

- the ability of the concerned governments to internalize the multifaceted issues of land degradation into the processes of national and sectoral development planning and budgeting. This would allow for the NAP to be pulled out of a strictly "ecological corner", thereby establishing operational linkages between the NAPs and other relevant frameworks dealing with poverty alleviation, agricultural development, debt relief, and so on;

- the identification of an interface between the strategic thrusts of the NAPs to combat desertification on the one hand, and the respective frameworks of interventions and programming cycles of the development partners, on the other, to facilitate support to NAPs priority areas through the donors' ongoing or planned interventions. Recent experience shows that this internalization process is a challenge not only for the affected developing country Parties, but also for the developed country Parties, as recognized in an OECD review on mainstreaming of the environmental conventions;

- the establishment of operational linkages between the NAPs and SRAPs in order to address such issues as sustainable management of transboundary ecosystems, which go beyond the scope of national programmes. This linkage would also provide an opportunity to capture some of the global or regional funding opportunities that might otherwise not be available;

- the effectiveness in identifying the interface between the UNCCD and other environmental conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and in rendering this interface operational.

It is a time-intensive process to mainstream the UNCCD objectives into relevant processes on the demand and supply sides (i.e. government and development partners, respectively), to build operational bridges between the NAPs and SRAPs, and to create synergies between interventions at national and subregional levels under different conventions (dealing with desertification, biodiversity and climate

change). The administrative inertia that may in some cases hamper such a process is exacerbated by limited institutional capacity at country level in the following areas:

- articulation of the NAPs and SRAPs, based on broad analysis of root causes to desertification (i.e. the socio-economic and policy and institutional contexts that are conducive to land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, as a result of climatic factors and the survival strategies of the natural resource users);

- identification of policy and institutional barriers, as well as investment gaps;

- formulation of appropriate remedial measures in terms of policy improvement/harmonization, institutional coordination/changes, and support to field investments.

For want of adequate coordination capacity and efficient mechanisms at national and subregional levels, there tend to be gaps or overlaps in donors' interventions, including in the field of capacity-building, while there is a myriad of training programmes and networks already operational across the various regions.

There is a widespread perception (especially among UNCCD focal institutions) that the inadequate financial and technical resources are a major constraint to the implementation of NAPs and SRAPs. In contrast with this, the operational departments or field representations of the development partners dealing with the affected countries stress that NAP-related investment proposals could tap ODA resources if they featured high enough on the priority list of interventions negotiated through government channels. In other words, more proactive dialogue is required at all levels. This is something the GM has been encouraging in its role as a matchmaker.

Against this backdrop, the Ad Hoc Working Group session to review UNCCD implementation in March/April 2001 provided a useful opportunity for an exchange of views between UNCCD focal points in the developing and developed country Parties on the progress made in action planning and the constraints to resource mobilization.

The outcome of the Ad Hoc working Group session confirms the findings of subregional and regional consultations on approaches to partnerships and resource mobilization, which the GM has financed in Africa (Mombasa, Algiers), Asia (Bangkok) and Latin America (El Salvador) during the year 2000. These consultations were organized in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat and other members of the GM Facilitation Committee and relevant (sub)regional organizations, pursuant to a decision of COP 3.

It is recognized, however, that country-specific requirements can only be addressed in the context of country-level dialogue, bringing together the relevant government departments (including not only the UNCCD focal institutions but also the departments in charge of planning, finance and technical cooperation, as well as the relevant technical departments).

In many countries, the NAP is still at the formulation stage, while in others it is completed, and the National Coordinating Bodies are dealing with financial and operational issues of how to move from planning to action. It is therefore premature, as far as the implementation of NAP-related projects are concerned, to

make even a preliminary assessment of the impact (i.e. did the project achieve its development objectives?), efficiency (i.e. did the benefits exceed the costs, after due discounting?) and sustainability (i.e. are the benefits likely to be sustained beyond the project's life?).

While opportunities for new and additional resources for UNCCD implementation (as foreseen under the UNCCD, through the GEF and other innovative mechanisms) are being pursued, special attention should also be paid to proper design and implementation of NAP-related projects. Past experience with natural resource management projects (including land degradation control) that pre-date the UNCCD, would suggest that successful project execution and timely disbursement of project funds can generate positive feedback leading to an improvement in the UNCCD's capacity to absorb even more financial resources from ODA and domestic sources.

PART TWO: OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL MECHANISM ACTIVITIES IN 2001/2002

A number of countries and (sub)regions have benefited from GM technical and/or financial assistance in 2000/2001, including: Algeria, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Central Asian Countries, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Haiti, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Assistance from the GM is related to the formulation or implementation of the NAPs in countries listed above, or of the SRAPs in West, East and Southern Africa, North Africa, West and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Details on the scope and modalities of GM interventions at country, subregional and regional levels are provided in the annexes to this report.

In accordance with the functions assigned to the Global Mechanism by the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD and in the light of the first review of GM policies, operational modalities and activities, the response of the GM to a growing number of requests for assistance has evolved along the following lines:

- Collecting and disseminating information;
- Analysing and advising on request;
- Promoting actions leading to cooperation and coordination;
- Facilitating the mobilization and channelling of financial resources.

The ways in which the GM has discharged these functions are described below.

A. Collecting and disseminating information

The GM Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD) is progressively becoming a participatory and decentralized knowledge management system in support of the resource mobilization process for UNCCD implementation.

The relevance, added value and effectiveness of FIELD is demonstrated by the increasing expressions of interest received from institutions, practitioners and decision-makers from both affected developing countries and their development partners. Pilot activities aimed at testing and populating FIELD have started to produce tangible results, which have been posted by the GM and are available in the public domain.

The GM is pursuing its efforts towards full implementation and maintenance of the FIELD system and, through FIELD, to promote the establishment of cost-effective knowledge-sharing practices between stakeholders. Henceforth, more emphasis will be placed on resource analysis, with a view to facilitating the enhancement and predictability of resource flows that can benefit the UNCCD. To this end, the GM will closely monitor progress made in intergovernmental negotiations on issues offering an interface with land degradation.

B. Analysing and advising on request

Effective matching of supply and demand for investment in land degradation control requires a proper understanding of processes that are conducted, and the products that are generated, both at government and development partner level, as part of the efforts to mainstream the Convention's objectives.

As part of the preparations for the regional and subregional consultations on approaches to resource mobilization, and in response to specific government requests for GM assistance to move from planning (NAPs) to action (field investments), the GM has undertaken in 2000/2001 to facilitate a number of support activities, in collaboration with the members of its Facilitation Committee, including:

- An assessment of the coherence between (i) the scope of the NAPs, (ii) the provisions of the UNCCD as a Convention on sustainable development in affected areas, (iii) the government or national plans, and (iv) donors' country assistance frameworks. In countries where, for a variety of reasons, the NAP document is based on a narrow concept of desertification and basically consists of the work plan of the NAP Coordinating Body, this kind of assessment offers an opportunity to broaden the NAP perspective, and hence to enlarge the basis for resource mobilization.

- An assessment of capacity-building requirements (to lift the barriers to NAP mainstreaming as discussed above), and identification of opportunities for meeting such requirements, through existing or new programmes, networks and initiatives that deal with capacity building. Such activities are well under way in Southern Africa under the aegis of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) as the Coordinating Body for the SRAP. In this context, special attention is being paid to establishing linkages with the GEF supported Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) which makes specific reference to land degradation, as well as to other relevant multilateral and bilateral initiatives. To this end, a working group has been established, comprising SADC, three member countries and interested development partners.

- A diagnostic review of root causes of desertification, as a basis for a broad agenda for action (including policy reform/harmonization, institutional change/coordination, and a core set of investments). On this basis, the policy and institutional agenda will be put forward for consideration by the relevant consultative forums involving government and its development partners, (such as those dealing with poverty reduction strategy, debt relief agreements, GEF country programming, etc.). At the same time, the required core set of NAP-related priority investment projects will be aligned with the donors' regular programming cycle, or submitted for consideration through decentralized cooperation mechanisms. Over the past year, the GM, in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat, has helped to facilitate this process in China, in consultation with the State Forestry Administration, and

with the support of development partners including AsDB, UNDP, World Bank, IFAD and China's traditional bilateral partners.

- A comparative review of investment priorities identified under the NAP and the ongoing or planned development partners' interventions at country level. This exercise is under way in Mali, as a follow-up to a round table organized in 1999 by the Government, during which donors expressed an interest in continuing to support the priority areas identified under the UNCCD, (including water control, natural resources management, an environmental information system, and sanitation).

- An elaboration of donor profiles and promotion of database development at subregional and country levels, as a tool for prospective matching of supply of, and demand for, resources. Relevant information in this context includes the respective strategic thrusts of donors at country/(sub)regional levels, the relevance to land degradation control, the financial resources required and the type of programmes concerned. Examples of GM intervention include the elaboration of donor profiles in East, West, North and Southern Africa and Asia, and its support to the Information Network on Desertification and Drought in Latin America and the Caribbean (DESELAC), in preparation for the subregional and regional workshops in 2000/2001 on approaches to partnership and resource mobilization for UNCCD implementation (decision 9/COP.3, para. 11).

- An analysis, in the light of the comparative reviews, of the investment gaps and the prospective financing mechanisms required to fill such gaps, as a result of rearrangements of existing programmes or new commitments in accordance with the donor's forthcoming programming cycle. In this context, the establishment of desertification funds at national or local level is being considered in Burkina, Senegal and other countries, as one of many options for financing Local Area Development Programmes (LADPs).

C. Promoting cooperation and coordination

Cooperation and coordination are promoted by the GM within its strategic alliances with a number of institutions both in the context of their respective corporate strategies, and in activities at country and (sub)regional levels. The main constituencies with which the GM has undertaken to establish strategic partnerships are those of the GM Facilitation Committee (IFAD, UNDP, World Bank, UNCCD secretariat, GEF secretariat, FAO, UNEP, and the regional development banks: AsDB, AfDB, and IDB); (sub)regional organizations with specific mandates and/or interest in the UNCCD; the CGIAR institutions; bilateral agencies; and the NGO community.

The GM has adopted a strategy that fosters a process of "constructive engagement" between all relevant stakeholders. The process brings together developed country Parties, multilateral institutions, affected country Parties and civil society for developing a common vision to address dryland issues. The process involves conducting joint missions with bilateral and multilateral partners to assess the needs of a country, or subregion, and to initiate dialogue with relevant ministries and civil society at national level. These initial activities serve to facilitate the exchange of information, identify overlaps in donor programming, assess the enabling environment, and elevate the profile of the UNCCD at national level. They also set the stage for development of complementary programme interventions and identify areas in need of substantial investment. In Tunisia for example, this

ongoing process is leading to the integration of the NAP into the Tenth National Development Plan as a priority programme, which consequently, funding agencies will be able to finance through existing channels.

The scope and modalities of GM cooperation with some of its strategic allies is illustrated below.

The Facilitation Committee (FC): The Facilitation Committee of the GM brings together a number of multilateral agencies, in response to provisions of the Convention and the COP sessions, with a view to enhancing, in a concerted manner, support from such agencies to the UNCCD implementation. In addition to the original members - IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank - the FC now also comprises the UNCCD secretariat, the GEF secretariat, UNEP, FAO and the regional development banks (AsDB, AfDB, and IDB).

The FC meetings have progressively evolved through 2000/2001 as a forum for an exchange of views on substantive issues in relation to the status and orientation of GM interventions and on relevant initiatives of interest to FC members (e.g. the GM's Communications Strategy, the Land and Water Initiative for Africa, feedback on the Ad Hoc Working Group on NAP reviews, preparation for "RIO plus 10"). The FC also provides an opportunity for new ideas on coordination, e.g. the adoption of a "business plan" approach (based on strategic thrusts and the comparative advantages of the concerned institutions, etc.). At the same time, there is also scope for the Global Mechanism to add value to the work of operational departments of the FC member institutions, especially the multilateral financing institutions (MFIs) in a number of ways, including:

- Providing assistance to relevant governments - in consultation with the MFIs' regional divisions - to generate project concepts on the basis of the established priorities under the NAPs which these MFIs may wish to pursue in due course in the context of their country cooperation frameworks or as part of their project pipelines;

- Collaborating with MFIs' operational divisions to identify and address, through a regional approach, - i.e. through UNCCD (sub)regional programmes of actions (S)RAPs - certain issues requiring interventions beyond the normal scope of the MFI-supported, area-based projects. This is the case in the sustainable management of transboundary ecosystems (including shared watersheds and rangeland or mountain areas, or forest resources), which often require policy harmonization and institutional coordination at subregional level;

- Facilitating partnership building and mobilization of other additional resources to supplement the MFIs' financial assistance (i.e. loans and grants) to relevant countries and organizations. The bridge of partnership which the GM can cement as a matchmaker - or honest broker - applies not only to identification of potential opportunities for co-financing of MFI-initiated projects, but also to complementary interventions that normally go beyond a particular MFI's mandate and resources, and which hold potential for added value.

The CGIAR: As a follow up to decision 25/COP.1, and with the strong encouragement of the World Bank in its chairmanship of the CGIAR, the GM has undertaken in 2001 to explore the opportunity for collaboration with the CGIAR institutions. In this

context, the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) were invited to make presentations on topics of common interest (e.g technical inputs to the NAP/SRAP processes and return on investment in drylands) at the eighth session of the GM's Facilitation Committee. These discussions will be followed up both at field level and on a thematic basis, with ICARDA serving as a focal point. The CGIAR institutions that would be involved at this stage include, *inter alia*, ICARDA, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), IFPRI, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

Bilateral agencies: Bilateral partners are, in general, supportive to the GM as an innovative, institutional arrangement that can help rationalize and, where needed, increase the flow of resources to combat land degradation. This is evidenced by the voluntary contributions to GM catalytic resources from developed country Parties, namely: Canada, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, for the 2000/2001 biennium. As part of its functions, the GM also pays special attention to establishing a continuing dialogue with bilateral agencies, both at headquarters and in the field, on substantive issues.

As a follow-up to discussions during the COP inter-sessional meetings, the GM has interacted with the headquarters-based UNCCD focal points, usually concerning the mainstreaming of and synergies between the environmental conventions. At field level, the GM has established contacts with the field representatives of bilateral agencies, as part of its efforts to promote linkages between the NAPs/SRAPs and the donors' strategic priorities and related portfolios or pipelines of projects and programmes. The strategic partnerships between the GM and bilateral agencies in support of the SRAPs in Southern Africa and Central Asia, and to explore existing and potential resources for the Convention, including regular ODA and private foundations, and carbon trading, are concrete examples of this. Acquired experience over the past two years would suggest, however, that the mainstreaming process - and the related requirements in terms of awareness building, strategic linkages, institutional coordination and information systems - remains a continuing challenge not only for the developing but also for the developed country Parties to the UNCCD.

In this context, the GM's previous interaction with the OECD/DAC secretariat has been most encouraging, and has included a contribution to the elaboration of OECD/DAC poverty reduction guidelines. As noted in previous GM reports to COP, a mechanism similar to the Facilitation Committee, for more systematic interaction between the GM and the bilateral donor community would be of immense value. The ways and means by which to organize such interaction will be pursued by the GM.

Regional organizations: A three-fold role is contemplated for selected subregional organizations under the Convention - in conformity with its original mandate - involving:

- coordination of the SRAP in the pertinent geographic areas;
- providing a relay for development partners to support the NAP programming process in member countries;
- providing a subregional forum for policy dialogue and cross-fertilization of the implementation experience.

The comparative advantage of collaboration with selected subregional organizations (to be duly strengthened to this end) is the opportunity to work in an integrated manner across the various government departments, and at various levels, ranging from technical staff to policy makers and to political authorities. This is the case, for example, with the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in West Africa, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in East Africa, the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) in North Africa and SADC in Southern Africa.

It is in this context that a subregional stakeholders' consultation bringing together representatives of the Departments of Finance, Planning, Agriculture and the Environment, under the aegis of SADC, was organized, to outline road-maps for UNCCD implementation at country and subregional levels. This has resulted in an emerging partnership framework to combat land degradation and poverty (covering policy and institutional issues, and a core set of investments including a comprehensive portfolio of projects on management of transboundary ecosystems). This framework would be supported by a subregional financial facility established with seed money from the GM, and technical assistance from the SADC-based Multi-donor Hub (World Bank, IFAD, the European Union (EU), FAO, France, Japan), and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The establishment of a similar facility is under consideration for East Africa and West Africa under the aegis of IGAD and ECOWAS/CILSS, respectively. The GM is also actively collaborating with UMA on the implementation of the North African SRAP.

Collaboration with NGOs: As previously reported to COP 4, high priority is given to the involvement of civil society in the Convention. In recognition of this, the GM has developed a special initiative to support NGOs - the Community Exchange and Training Programme, as a framework of partnership which aims to build up capacity at grassroots level, and to ensure systematic involvement of NGOs at national and subregional levels. The recognized International NGO Network on Desertification (RIOD) is the GM's prime partner.

The first project supported by the GM under this framework - with co-financing from the World Bank - was a pilot community-to-community exchange operation involving tea growing farmers in South Africa, facilitated by a local NGO (the Environmental Monitoring Group). This pilot operation conducted in 2000 has not only resulted in improved access to export markets by the visiting community, but has also begun to generate encouraging demonstration effects. These include a replication of the exchange model by the World Bank in Tanzania and Kenya, "for local communities to share the process of herbal treatment of HIV/AIDS patients", with funding from Switzerland. GM funding was also approved for similar community-to-community exchange programmes in Latin America (Peru) and Asia (Pakistan).

A major challenge in the implementation of the Community Exchange and Training Programme (CETP), is related to the administration of small grant funds and the supervision of field activities. To this end, the GM is working on specific Memoranda of Understanding with the specialized agencies who can discharge these tasks and, at the same time, link the CETP with their relevant NGO and community-based activity programmes.

D. Mobilizing and channelling financial resources

The GM has used its own resources (voluntary contributions from certain governments and development institutions) as catalytic funding to forge partnerships, with a view to mobilizing larger amounts of financial r sources. In other words, the catalytic support from the GM generates a multiplier effect by levering, over time, substantial investments from governments and their development partners to combat land degradation and poverty in affected countries. The GM is not conceived as a single funding source for the UNCCD; the great bulk of resources for investments in land degradation control will be directly transferred to recipient governments and civil society organizations, by way of specific partnership agreements with the donor agencies. In this context, the GM's catalytic resources have helped facilitate a number of activities that result in mobilization of resources for land degradation control in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These include, *inter alia*:

- Co-financing and facilitation of subregional stakeholders' workshops in West Africa (Fouta Djallon, Niger/Nigeria) that have resulted in two GEF planning grants (PDF-Bs) in 2000/2001, to be followed by two prospective GEF-funded projects in 2003;

- Initiating and/or supporting the elaboration of frameworks of partnerships at country (e.g. China with the AsDB), subregional or regional levels (e.g. Latin America and the Caribbean with IFAD and IDB), as a reference for the development of project pipelines for funding by relevant multilateral and bilateral funding agencies;

- Supporting - or in some cases initiating - the elaboration of frameworks for partnerships at country (e.g. China), subregional or regional levels (e.g. Latin America and the Caribbean), as a reference for the development of project pipelines for support by relevant multilateral and bilateral funding agencies;

- Joint establishment and co-financing, with the Asian Development Bank, of a Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) grant to combat land degradation and poverty in Asia. This facility is aimed at helping governments to remove identified barriers to UNCCD mainstreaming, and to lay the ground for a UNCCD-oriented pipeline of projects.

While there are concrete illustrations of the multiplier effect of GM interventions, the process of internalization of the UNCCD at country level is still at an early stage, hence the difficulty in estimating the financial resources needed over a given time period. In the near future (i.e. by the end of 2001 for some affected countries, and 2002 for many others), the GM will be in a position to assist governments, upon request, in setting realistic targets for resource mobilization.

The GM's efforts to mobilize and channel resources reflects a multi-pronged approach involving a systematic review by the GM of the country cooperation frameworks of multilateral and bilateral agencies, in order to identify options for support to NAPs/SRAPs under such frameworks. For instance, this exercise is under way in the case of IFAD and it is anticipated that, of a total annual lending programme of US$ 400-450 million, about 25-30% could be dedicated to projects and programmes directly relevant to UNCCD objectives in the countries concerned.

It is also recognized that GM can provide support to IFAD operational divisions to mobilize GEF planning grants and GEF project funding, in order to address regional or global environmental concerns, thereby enhancing the environmental sustainability of IFAD's poverty-oriented interventions. The GM is performing a similar exercise with other financing institutions in the context of a "business plan" approach within the GM's Facilitation Committee. Likewise, the ongoing inventory of private sector foundations will provide the basis for identification of the interface between the NAP priority areas and the strategic thrust of such private funding sources.

The multi-pronged approach also entails support to affected country Parties for the generation of a pipeline of programmes and projects for GEF funding, on the basis of the NAPs and SRAPs. The GM has, on several occasions, contributed to generating new project ideas and has co-financed the development of GEF funded concept notes (PDF-A) followed by successful requests for planning grants (PDF-Bs). In these cases, the GM was also entrusted with the responsibility to mobilize co-financing from other sources, to match GEF contributions. Under the Integrated Land and Water Management (ILWM) initiative for Africa (spearheaded by the World Bank, UNDP and the GEF), the GM has taken the following measures:

- Contributing to the concept development; serving as a channel for the related initial GEF contribution (PDF-A);

- Co-financing the previous elaboration and forthcoming implementation of a proposal for a GEF "medium-size project" which was recently approved by GEF;

- Facilitating, on the occasion of GM supported regional events, the ownership of the ILWM initiative by the regional stakeholders including, *inter alia*, the relevant intergovernmental bodies and river basins organizations.

Such experiences illustrate the potential of the GM as an institutional partner discharging, in a unique manner, the conceptual function of helping governments to build a bridge between the NAP or SRAP processes, the GEF country dialogue workshops and the development of the GEF portfolio at country and transnational levels. As such, GM interventions add value to the activities of GEFSEC and GEF implementing agencies.

In the light of recent GEF Council decisions, there is a need, however, to further enhance the GM's response capacity, in view of emerging opportunities to mobilize GEF resources (and related co-financing) in a more predictable way. As far as other sources of funding are concerned, the GM will pay special attention in the very near future to exploring ways and means of tapping private sector funding opportunities, as well as resources that could be mobilized in the context of the Kyoto Protocol and Clean Development Mechanism (see part four, The Way Forward and Next Steps).

E. Communications strategy: A multi-pronged approach

At the request of the COP, the GM has undertaken the development of a communications strategy, as part of its operational strategy, which aims at "facilitating contact with Parties and other actors, increasing awareness of the Convention, and promoting participation in its implementation" (decision 9/COP.3, para. 14).

In this context, the approach of the GM is based on the same paradigm as that adopted for resource mobilization, i.e. a multi-sectoral Convention requires a multi-source, multi-funding approach. In other words, the GM must capitalize on the

respective communications strategies of various stakeholders to the Convention (governments, inter-governmental organizations, specialized agencies, NGOs and farmers' organizations, etc.), to ensure that such strategies integrate messages aimed at promoting UNCCD objectives. On these grounds, the GM will collaborate with its partners in order to elaborate specific messages, aimed at carefully identified target audiences, through separate or joint communications tools as appropriate (web sites, CD-ROMs, documentaries, publications, etc), with the ultimate view of facilitating partnerships and mobilizing resources.

As a follow-up to previous consultations with the relevant units in IFAD and FAO, and subsequent discussions on the subject during the last session of the GM Facilitation Committee, the GM has undertaken to facilitate, as a collaborative exercise, the search for and dissemination of success stories on investments in areas affected by land degradation. This activity is referred to, for practical purposes, as "drylands success stories". The added value of the proposed exercise, aimed at encouraging additional investments in support of the UNCCD, does not only reside in the diversity of the sources of information. It will also provide different institutional perspectives, not only based on the review by development partners of their own project performance, but also qualitative assessments by key stakeholders including government and the natural resource users.

The starting point for an initial review recently undertaken by the GM is the premise that many well-intentioned drylands advocates were experiencing great difficulty in convincing their colleagues in ministries of finance and/or planning and/or in donor agencies, that investment in drylands development makes economic sense.

The review is concerned with the findings of long-term studies of drylands development, of which there are but few, although probably no less than those available for more humid zones. The broad findings are that drylands people are remarkably resilient and have succeeded in increasing their incomes in sustainable ways, and in coping with all but the most severe natural calamities. This has entailed making on-farm innovations in low-risk techniques and activities, and developing off-farm income sources which are often, but not always, invested in on-farm activities. A thriving agricultural economy is clearly necessary but is not sufficient alone to guarantee successful drylands development.

Taking into account the continuing need for advocacy in favour of investments in areas affected by land degradation, the GM will not only assist governments in generating NAP-related project concepts that build on the lessons from the past, but also mobilize support for the initiative on "dryland success stories" as an action-research programme, the outcome of which will serve as a powerful message under a communications strategy aimed at encouraging governments, official development partners, NGOs and the private sector (including foundations) to give the required priority to land degradation control.

PART THREE: FINANCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM

A. Organization and human resources

As stated in the GM report to COP 4, two Programme Officers were recruited in 2000, which has substantially enhanced the GM's response capacity. Portfolio allocation in the GM has also reflected the COP 3 recommendation for coverage of various geographic regions. However, despite continuing efforts to prioritize GM interventions as per the guiding principles mentioned above, the human resources available to the GM have been stretched to the limit.

It has become clear that for the GM to be able to fulfil its functions in a timely and efficient manner, the number of professional staff and corresponding support staff will need to be increased. Recognizing the priority given to Africa in the Convention, it is recommended that two new Programme Officer posts be added to the GM's core staff. These functions have been discharged during the 2000/2001 period by long-term consultants, funded by voluntary contributions. A similar process is being envisaged for the recruitment of a Communications Officer, in view of the important role the GM has in this area. The staffing issue was already flagged in the context of the GM report to COP 4 in relation to a request for the GM budget to be revised upwards, to a level commensurate with the minimum requirements for the GM to discharge its functions in step with increasing demands for GM assistance and as reflected in IFAD's and UNDP's submissions in their respective original bids to house the GM.

B. Contributions to GM financial resources

The resources made available to the GM, in order to fulfil its responsibilities, comprise:

- Allocations by the COP from the Core Budget of the UNCCD, to meet the GM's core administrative and operational expenses;

- Voluntary contributions from multilateral and bilateral donors and other sources (e.g. NGOs and the private sector) to cover the GM's administrative and operational expenses in relation to services rendered by the GM;

- Catalytic resources made available in the form of trust funds or otherwise from bilateral and multilateral sources which the GM utilizes as catalytic financial assistance in support of UNCCD implementation.

An IFAD Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) of US$ 2.5 million was approved in 1999 (out of a total pledge of US$ 10 million) as an initial capitalization of the Special Resources for UNCCD Financing (SRCF) account, pending mobilization of matching financing from other donors. IFAD's contribution has enabled the GM to earmark financial assistance to countries as catalytic inputs towards mobilizing resources for field investments. It should be pointed out that in IFAD's offer to house the GM and contribute to the SRCF account, it was understood that further contributions beyond the first instalment would be contingent to contributions from other donors. In this context, it is very encouraging that in addition to the collaboration between the GM and the World Bank on substantive issues, the Bank is now also contributing financially, with a grant of US$ 1.25 million being approved in June 2000 for the fiscal year 2000. A similar amount is anticipated for the fiscal year 2001.

Voluntary contributions have also been received from the Government of Switzerland with an amount of CHF 250,000 for the years 2000 and 2001 as a continuation of support provided previously. The Government of Norway has taken a formal decision to contribute an amount in the order of US$ 600,000 to the Global Mechanism over a three-year period. The Governments of Denmark and Sweden have contributed respectively the equivalent of US$ 350,000 and US$ 575,535. Negotiations are under way with the Governments of the Netherlands and Italy with regard to voluntary contributions to the Global Mechanism. Moreover, it is expected that within the next few months, the bilateral donors who have already contributed to the GM will be joined by others.

C. Operational and administrative procedures

As stated in the report to COP 4, the GM is gradually, on the basis of emerging experiences, developing a standard intervention cycle, as part of efforts to streamline its operations.

Following a request for support, the GM prepares an inception note based either on a reconnaissance mission to the country or region concerned, or on a desk review. This and other background documents, together with a proposal for an amount of GM financial assistance, form the basis for identifying a tentative "road-map" for GM intervention.

As part of the review process, the Global Mechanism's Technical Advisory Group (GM/TAG) established to provide advice on the objectives and scope of activities to be funded under the SRCF Account, is consulted. This group consists of the FAO, the Global Mechanism, IFAD and the UNCCD secretariat. The GM has the faculty to invite others to attend the TAG meetings, as appropriate, depending on the nature and geographical focus of the assistance being requested. Countries and inter-governmental organizations receive initial financial support, as catalytic resources towards levering additional funds in support of UNCCD implementation.

The GM/TAG meetings are part of a continuing process of technical reviews and consultations that also include the sessions of the GM's Facilitation Committee (FC) and the continuous interactions between the GM and the FC members.

The process of streamlining the administrative procedures of the Global Mechanism has been pursued throughout the year. This has involved routine office procedures as well as the development of standard agreements for the grants provided by the Global Mechanism to support governments and organizations. In doing so, the GM has drawn on the knowledge and expertise of the pertinent divisions of IFAD, with which it works closely on a daily basis.

PART FOUR: THE WAY FORWARD AND NEXT STEPS

There is a growing consensus among the country Parties to the UNCCD of the relevance of the GM as an institution which holds promise to help rationalize and improve allocation of resources to address land degradation through multi-sectoral intervention. On the occasion of the spring 2001 session of the Ad Hoc Working Group, the country Parties stressed their appreciation of the GM's efforts to fulfil its mandate and its positive role in donor mobilization, as reflected in the Co-Chairman's Conclusions and Recommendations to the Ad Hoc Working Group. The GM's

increasing responsibilities in terms of facilitating and monitoring follow-up activities for the process of matching supply and demand was also recognized, as was the need for stronger GM support to subregional and regional programmes.

While in future the GM will pursue its ongoing efforts to assist, on request, in the mainstreaming of the NAP on both the demand and supply sides of the financial resource equations, opportunities to use other institutional relays (specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies) will also be considered. At the same time, the analytical and advisory role of the GM will be more and more focused not only on enhancing GEF support to the UNCCD, but also on exploring new sources of funding. Finally, the GM will play a sustained brokering role in the area of capacity-building and knowledge networking.

It is of critical importance to enhance the GM's response capacity, in view of emerging opportunities to mobilize GEF resources (and related co-financing) in a more predictable way, now that IFAD has become a GEF executing agency and given that the opening of a new GEF focal area on land degradation is under consideration. In this context, the GM has recently undertaken to establish a "GEF node", as a virtual unit, including a small core of temporary professionals, supported by a pool of highly qualified experts, engaged on a retainer basis. The node would serve IFAD as well as other partner agencies.

As far as other (innovative) funding sources are concerned, lessons learned from the initial exploratory activities will provide useful insights regarding the way in which the GM would adjust, in the future, its internal organization and institutional partnership arrangements (with FC members and others), in order to provide the most cost effective services to the country Parties to the Convention.

In order to consolidate the achievements of the first 18 months over the 2000/2001 biennium, and respond to new challenges in UNCCD implementation, there is a need to:

- Consolidate GM human resource development and internal organization, in response to growing external demands for support. This will be coupled with strengthening of operational collaboration (through a "Business Plan" approach in selected countries on request) with FC members, other specialized institutions and interested bilateral cooperation agencies;

- Facilitate, in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat, UNDP and other members of the Facilitation Committee, the substantive preparation and organization of, and follow-up to, the Coordination Meetings on Partnership Building and Resource Mobilization in selected countries, by the end of 2001 and through 2002;

- Set targets for resource mobilization in selected countries, on request. This will be based on individual country road-maps drawn up by governments with GM assistance, to be agreed upon with partners. Road-maps will reflect a clear agenda for action to combat land degradation and poverty, as derived, *inter alia*, from the NAPs and other relevant planning frameworks, including interventions at policy and institutional levels, and a core set of field investments. At the same time, it is expected that significant progress will have been made in the development of donor profiles (i.e. sources and amounts of available funding). On these grounds, new and additional resource requirements will be estimated, on the basis of which the GM will assist countries in matching such requirements with potentially available resources (regular ODA and innovative funding sources);

- Replicate, with necessary adjustments as warranted by specific circumstances in other countries or subregions, the partnership frameworks for resource mobilization which the GM has undertaken to facilitate in 2000/2001;

- Make operational a GEF Node within the GM's existing organizational structure, in line with the relevant provisions of the UNCCD and decisions of its COP, and in the light of the relevant decisions of the May 2001 GEF Council. The node has an immediate three-fold objective: firstly, assisting GM and IFAD to provide critical substantive inputs to the GEFSEC work in preparation for prospective opening of a window on land degradation; secondly, mobilizing GEF resources to match IFAD financing in the transitional period pending GEF Assembly decisions in 2002; and thirdly, laying the ground for a prominent IFAD funding role in the implementation of the prospective land degradation focal area, and establishing more systematic collaboration with other GEF implementing and executing agencies, to help strengthen their portfolio of projects to combat land degradation;

- Elaborate, in close consultation with regional stakeholders, a joint road-map to expedite the mobilization of GEF resources in Africa (with a five-year target of US$ 500 million, under the Land and Water Initiative), as well as in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, where indicative targets for GEF funding will be estimated by the end of 2001, as part of preparatory activities for relevant partnership frameworks to combat land degradation and poverty;

- Establish a more systematic dialogue with GEFSEC, GEF implementing and executing agencies, as well as other relevant constituencies, in the context of the Facilitation Committee of the GM and prospectively, at the GEF Council, in accordance with decision 25/COP.1, annex, para.8, which recommends that "the GM be granted observer status on the GEF Council";

- Review country cooperation frameworks of IFAD, the World Bank, the regional development banks and other members of the GM Facilitation Committee, and establish systematic collaboration with their operational departments throughout their programming cycles, with a view to enhancing the land degradation thrust of the lending programmes of the multilateral financing institutions and the respective country portfolios of other development partners;

- Expedite consultations with RIOD coordinating organizations and other relevant NGO networks, establish appropriate frameworks of cooperation, not only for implementation of the Community Exchange and Training Programme, but also for a more systematic approach to resource mobilization in favour of NGOs, from various sources including the GEF, the EU, other multilateral and bilateral partners, and the private sector;

- Complete the ongoing inventory of private foundations, identifying the interface between their respective focal areas and the strategic thrusts of the UNCCD and the opportunities for supporting specific NAP-related activities and projects in selected countries and (sub)regions;

- Monitor the progress (as recommended by decision 9/COP.3, para. 8) in relevant intergovernmental negotiations, and pursue dialogue with relevant constituencies, with a view to identifying opportunities for resource mobilization. Special attention will be paid to immediate follow-up to the recent signing of the Kyoto Protocol and the exploration of opportunities for, *inter alia*, carbon trading and the Clean Development Mechanism;

- Undertake, at the same time (as requested by decision 9/COP.3, para. 12), to clarify the possibilities for economic and trade opportunities arising from and relating to the Convention. A report on the GM's concrete action in this regard will be submitted to COP 6, while an interim report would be shared for feedback at relevant UNCCD-related venues during the inter-session;

- Continue support to a GM-spearheaded and collaborative action research on "drylands success stories", in the context of the GM's communications strategy as a tool for resource mobilization and a contribution to knowledge networking; at the same time, the GM would not only gear up the level of its private sector outreach, but also continue to assist the UNCCD coordinating bodies in communicating with other ministries, in charge of finance and planning, as well as sector affairs. This would facilitate the inclusion of desertification issues on the agenda of governments' bilateral and multilateral negotiations, as well as in the design of sector investment projects;

- Elaborate a strategic plan for collaboration on information systems with each of the Facilitation Committee members and relevant bilateral partners.

On the basis of the above, it is of critical importance that the level of the GM Core Budget be accordingly reconsidered by COP 5, in order to keep up with increasing requests for GM assistance and the need to seize, through the multiplier effect of GM catalytic funding, the emerging opportunities for resource mobilization for affected countries.

Annex I

SUPPORT TO UNCCD IMPLEMENTATION IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Over the past two years, the GM has established contacts with all UNCCD focal institutions in East and Southern Africa, on approaches to partnership building and resource mobilization. These contacts were established either in response to specific government requests for GM support (as in the cases of Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and South Africa), or in the context of the GM funded subregional consultations, under the aegis of SADC and IGAD, held in October 2000 in Mombasa, Kenya and in May 2001 in Pretoria, South Africa.

Through these interactions, it has become clear that it will take time and resources to finalize a detailed road-map to address the root causes of land degradation and to implement the remedial measures prescribed therein. Such root causes, as identified at country or subregional levels, pose important challenges in terms of policies, institutions, field investments and other related issues (beneficiaries' participation, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, etc.). Addressing such challenges will require sustained political commitment on the part of concerned governments, combined with technical and financial assistance from development partners.

With this in mind, a pragmatic approach is being adopted by the Global Mechanism in response to an increasing number of pressing requests, from various sources, for advice and financial assistance. As far as the GM is concerned, this consists in focusing, on demand, on a limited number of countries, to help develop the kind of road-map referred to above (including identification of funding sources). At the same time, the GM is collaborating actively in the other countries, with relevant institutions, including Facilitation Committee members and bilateral agencies, as well as relevant inter-governmental bodies, to accelerate the cross-fertilization of experiences and accelerate the demonstration effect between countries.

Against this background, this part of the report provides more detail on the activities supported by the GM with the view to mobilizing resources for UNCCD implementation in East and Southern Africa. More specifically, the sections below deal respectively with:

- The conclusions and recommendations of the Mombasa, Kenya, workshop on Approaches to Partnerships and Resource Mobilization (October 2000), with the participation of NAP focal points from East and Southern Africa, discussed with development partners the issues of mainstreaming the NAP and SRAP objectives and the related constraints in terms of capacity building, information and communication;

- The establishment of a subregional framework of partnership (including a subregional facility) to combat land degradation and poverty in southern Africa. This is a response to a recommendation made during the follow-up subregional consultation organized in May 2001 in Pretoria, South Africa, on capacity building for resource mobilization. This consultation brought together the NAP focal points in SADC countries with representatives from the departments of agriculture, finance and planning, to outline road-maps at national and subregional levels, for subsequent follow up by interdepartmental country teams.

A. Consultation on partnership building and resource mobilization in East and Southern Africa

Decision 9/COP.3, para. 11 calls on the GM "in coordination with the UNCCD secretariat, to organize during the year 2000, regional and/or subregional workshops in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean on procedures to access existing financial mechanisms with the aim of mobilizing and channelling financial resources for implementation, and the transfer of technologies". In this context, IGAD and SADC agreed to hold a joint subregional workshop on resource mobilization. The workshop was organized with assistance from the Global Mechanism, in coordination with the UNCCD secretariat and in close collaboration with UNDP Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) and other GM FC members. The workshop was held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 2 to 4 October 2000. It was co-funded by the Global Mechanism, UNDP/UNSO and the UNEP Regional Office for Africa. Preparatory activities on the part of the GM included, *inter alia*, a review of donor profiles in the two subregions, and a drafting of a subregional platform for capacity building in East and Southern Africa.

The main outputs of the Mombasa workshop are summarized below:

- Opportunities available to affected countries to mobilize resources for UNCCD implementation were understood and appreciated;

- Synergies between bilateral and multilateral funding instruments that currently or potentially are available at national and/or regional levels to finance activities related to UNCCD implementation, and procedures for accessing such funds, were identified;

- Information on existing frameworks of development partners that the NAP and SRAP process may benefit from, was availed;

- The common understanding increased of the synergies between the various initiatives under international conventions and bilateral cooperation agreements, as well as thematic initiatives that can contribute to the implementation of the UNCCD, was enhanced. (These initiatives include the Land and Water initiative, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF);

- Appreciation of the progress made with very limited resources by focal points and their partner NGO institutions in the elaboration of NAPs and SRAPs in their respective countries and subregions, increased;

- Information was provided and proposals made for inclusion into emerging initiatives such as the Integrated Land and Water Management (ILWM) Action Programme for Africa, and the GM Framework for Technical Assistance (Regional Capacity Building Platform and Communication Strategy to facilitate resource mobilization);

- The exchange of experiences with, and information made available to, IGAD and SADC member states on NAP and SRAP elaboration, was enhanced;

- A "road-map" on the way forward, was agreed upon.

The conclusions of the Mombasa workshop are as follows:

- Inadequate resources (both technical and financial) are the main constraints to NAP and SRAP implementation;

- Some major causes (for the lack of resources) are inadequate capacity for analysis, planning and implementation of programmes, paucity of information on sources and approaches to resource mobilization and the marginalization of NAPs and SRAPs in the policy planning and budgeting processes both at national level and in development cooperation agreements;

- NAPs and SRAPs need to be mainstreamed/integrated into national planning and budget processes, as well as the development cooperation frameworks of development partners to ensure effective and sustainable implementation. In particular, it was noted that poverty eradication is the main focus of development cooperation frameworks and thus NAPs and SRAPs should target this as the primary entry point;

- The Integrated Land and Water Management Action Programme for Africa is a potential source of funding for NAP and SRAP implementation, but there is an urgent need to forge and ensure Africa's ownership of the programme in order to ensure that its objectives, decision-making processes and programme focus are relevant to Africa's priorities;

- Partnership building is an integral part of the resource mobilization strategy but has associated costs and investment implications, including need for incentives, particularly for the private sector;

- The GM's Regional Capacity Building Platform for resource mobilization and the Communications Strategy are important and timely initiatives which should be finalized and put into operation as soon as possible to benefit the efforts of the NAP and SRAP implementing Parties.

The recommendations of the Mombasa workshop are the following:

- Each NAP and SRAP focal point should develop and coordinate the implementation of a resource mobilization strategy, which should include a plan for mainstreaming/integrating dryland concerns in the policy, planning and budgeting processes at all levels;

- The GM should take the necessary steps to finalize and implement its Communication Strategy and Regional Capacity Building Platform for the mobilization of resources;

- The GM was called upon to mobilize resources for the identified subregional and country level capacity building needs;

- The Integrated Land and Water Management Action Programme for Africa should be finalized and rendered operational as soon as possible, taking the following into account the need to establish a governance/facilitation mechanism with representatives of African institutions/subregional organizations, and to undertake a bottom-up consultative process as a means of forging and ensuring African ownership of the initiative;

B. Framework of partnership for combating land degradation and Poverty in Southern Africa

Introduction: As a follow up to the Mombasa and Pretoria consultations, a "Subregional Framework of Partnership for Capacity Building and Resource Mobilisation in Southern Africa (SFPSA)" is being established under the aegis of SADC. It creates for SADC and its 14 member countries and their development partners, an opportunity to address in a concerted manner the implementation challenges under the UNCCD both at country and subregional levels. It will also provide an effective tool for coordination, and a transparent framework for negotiating specific partnership agreements with relevant financial and technical cooperation agencies. This partnership framework is meant as a coordinated response to recommendations from two successive stakeholders' consultations, supported by the Global Mechanism and members of its FC, over the past several months, in Mombasa and Pretoria.

Objectives of the Framework of Partnership: The main objective of the proposed Subregional Framework of Partnership is to allow the SADC Member States to tap existing and future opportunities for training and other forms of capacity building at national and subregional levels.

Scope of activities under the Subregional Framework of Partnership: Action areas under the SFPSA would comprise two main categories, namely:

- A set of enabling activities to help SADC Members States remove the identified barriers to adequate NAP formulation and implementation. This would include mainly technical support to SADC member Governments in strategy review and formulation, action planning and policy dialogue, project identification and formulation, environmental impact assessment, training and other forms of capacity building, information systems (involving indicators on flows and sources of funding relevant to the Convention, as well as socio-economic and environmental impact of land degradation control activities); development and implementation of a communication strategy at subregional and national levels;

- A portfolio of transboundary investment projects (e.g shared watersheds) to be managed by concerned member States based on agreed institutional arrangements, with a role for SADC, where appropriate, in overall coordination. This would involve identification of transboundary ecosystems and organization of stakeholders' consultations related to thematic issues (e.g. food security and rural livelihoods, erosion of plant and animal biodiversity, land degradation, etc.), challenges in policy harmonization and institutional coordination, etc. The resulting programme proposals should reflect the need for synergies among environmental conventions (desertification, biodiversity and climate change), as well as the poverty reduction concerns of development cooperation agencies.

The role of SADC: In this context, a three-fold role is contemplated for SADC under the Convention, in conformity with its original mandate, involving:

- Coordination of the SRAP for Southern Africa;

- Providing a relay for development partners, to support the national action programming process (NAPs) in interested member countries; and

- Providing a subregional forum for policy dialogue and cross fertilization of implementation experience.

The comparative advantage of collaboration with SADC (to be duly strengthened to this end, as required), is the opportunity to work in an integrated manner across the various government departments, and at various levels, ranging from technical staff to policy makers to political authorities.

Financing arrangements for the Subregional Framework of Partnership: Funding mechanisms for the SFPSA would be flexible enough to capitalize on different sources, so as to cover both the enabling activities and the portfolio of transboundary investments. At the same time, preference would be given to those options that would minimize the administrative burden on SADC, without prejudice to principles of financial accountability and due diligence.

More specifically, for the enabling activities, several funding options (not mutually exclusive) are envisaged, including:

- The establishment, as recommended at the Pretoria Consultation, of a Subregional Support Facility for Southern Africa (SSFSA) comprising two or more windows, operating on a grant basis: one multi-donor window managed by the SADC-based multi-donor Hub and one or more single-donor window(s) managed directly or indirectly under the aegis of SADC, in a manner consistent with the procedural specificity of the concerned donor(s); and

- "Piggybacking" arrangements to be negotiated between SADC and the relevant capacity building networks or initiatives and programmes that are ongoing or planned for the Southern Africa subregion.

For the subregional portfolio of investments in transboundary ecosystems management, funding options would include:

- Regional grants to SADC, from relevant regional and global funding sources, in the context of their respective mandates and strategic thrusts. These include the GEF (e.g under Operational Programme (OP) 12 for integrated ecosystems management and the EU under its Subregional Support Programme covering East and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean) as well as funding opportunities arising from innovative sources, including the private sector, options for decentralised cooperation and, last but not least, the Clean Development Mechanism and the recently signed Kyoto Protocol;

- Coordinated clusters of country-based loans and grants to SADC Member States (from the various sources above), covering agreed activities on a selected transboundary ecosystem, could be negotiated in a concerted manner between the interested Governments and other relevant multilateral and bilateral donors, or private sector partners.

Role of the Global Mechanism: The GM was requested by SADC member countries to contribute to the initial capitalization of the Subregional Support facility, and to act as a facilitator for the identification of other funding opportunities. The initial contribution from the GM of US$ 350,000 would be transferred as seed money into the multi-donor window of the Subregional Support Facility (SSFSA), on the basis of a partnership agreement (governed by a Memorandum of Understanding) between the GM and SADC. This initial GM contribution would be managed on behalf of SADC

by the multi-donor Hub, to encourage linkages with relevant field interventions supported at country or subregional levels by the Hub sponsors (i.e. World Bank, IFAD, EU, Japan, FAO, France, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)).

More specifically, the catalytic resources provided by the GM would finance:

- The enabling activities in relation to the NAP process, as agreed between SADC and the GM in response to specific country needs as expressed by the countries;

- The launching of a systematic inventory of potential sites across the Southern Africa subregion that may require a concerted approach to management of transboundary ecosystems; and

- Provision of targeted technical assistance to SADC (through the multi-donor Hub) to facilitate the systematic integration of UNCCD-related activities with the other aspects of SADC's multisectoral policy agenda.

At the same time, the GM would undertake to mobilize additional resources contributing to the Subregional Support Facility for Southern Africa (SSFSA) and would facilitate a matchmaking processing between identified needs and available opportunities for capacity building through ongoing and planned projects, programmes and networks.

C. Framework of partnership for combating land degradation and poverty in Eastern Africa

Following the IGAD/SADC consultation in Mombasa, Kenya, (4-7 October 2000), IGAD organized an expert meeting bringing together its member countries in Nairobi, Kenya (9-12 October 2000), for an in-depth exchange of views and experiences on NAP implementation in this subregion. A logical framework was developed on this occasion, starting with the premise that the constraints which affect the NAP/SRAP implementation are related to policy issues (lack of conducive framework or inadequate enforcement), capacity building (weak institutions and inadequate skills and facilities for implementation of planned activities), inadequate information and networking, the absence of a strategy for resource mobilization, weak civil society and low level private sector involvement. The objectives and opportunities for action are summarized in the table below:

Adequate resource mobilization for NAPs/SRAPs

Problem	Objective	Opportunities for action	
		At subregional level	At country Level
Inadequate institutional capacity	Effective institutional capacity in place for aid coordination management	• IGAD to mobilize technical assistance (training and expertise)	• To identify capacity gaps • To improve the management and coordination capacity of the relevant institution
	Periods to approve projects have been shortened	• IGAD through the heads of State to lobby for short project approvals	• To develop guidelines for preparation and channelling of proposals for resource mobilization
	Financial mechanism (funds) are established for National Desertification Fund (NDF) and SRFF	• IGAD to facilitate political decisions on the implementation of NDFs and SRAPs	• Focal points to facilitate legislation for NDF and SRAP • To provide seed resources for funds
Lack of strategy for resource mobilization	NAPs and SRAPs incorporated into medium and long-term strategic frameworks	• IGAD to strengthen awareness at ministerial levels for NAPs/SRAPs	• To develop guidelines on how to incorporate NAP/SRAP into the national planning process
	Clearly articulated and well costed projects / programmes prepared	• IGAD to facilitate inter-state consultation for the development of SRAP projects	• To coordinate various sectors in order to develop integrated programmes / projects
	Inventory of ongoing project activities and funding with respect to NAPs/SRAPs	• IGAD to conduct assessment of cross-boundary projects with respect to NAPs and SRAPs	• Focal points to facilitate consultation for identification of projects among key players (at government and NGO levels)
Weak civil society / private sector involvement	Vibrant civil society / private sector involvement realized	• IGAD to facilitate a framework for the role of civil society / private sector	• To lay down a clear framework for civil society / private sector

The GM has received a request from IGAD, developed along these lines, to assist in developing a framework of partnership, within which, the relevant financial instruments would be identified, and the necessary resources mobilized. A consultation at technical and Ministerial level has been scheduled for mid-September by IGAD, for feedback on, and validation of, the detailed proposals and road-maps presently being developed with GM assistance.

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2 This table draws on the conclusions of the IGAD Experts Meeting (Nairobi, 9-12 October 2000).

Annex II

SUPPORT TO UNCCD IMPLEMENTATION IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Countries in this subregion were among the first to request and receive assistance from the GM, both in the context of the NAP and of the SRAP processes. The GM has also provided concrete support to the subregional action programme (SRAP), by co-financing the co-development of project concepts which has served as the basis for successful requests for two GEF planning grants, for the Fouta Djallon Highlands and the Niger/Nigeria shared ecosystems.

Countries of the subregion approached the GM for assistance, once their respective NAPs had been completed. The initial requests were related to financing of activities such as consultancies and workshops, and the GM used such entry points as a basis for broad-based dialogue, not only with the NAP Coordinating Body but also with other relevant government departments (planning, finance and agriculture), and development partners. More specifically, the GM has undertaken to support the following activities:

- Analysis and advice on the coherence between the NAPs and the provisions of the UNCCD and the linkages between NAPs and sectoral and national planning frameworks;

- Identification of the interface between NAPs and poverty reduction strategies;

- Capacity building (requirements and opportunities);

- Diagnostic reviews of root causes of land degradation;

- Comparative reviews of possible linkages between investment priorities under NAPs and the ongoing or planned donor-funded projects;

- Elaboration of donor profiles and promotion of data base development at country and subregional levels; and

- Analysis of investment gaps and the prospective financing mechanisms required to fill them.

In the near future, (i.e. by the end of 2001 for some affected countries, and 2002 for many others), the GM will be in the position to assist governments, upon request, in setting realistic targets for resource mobilization. This will be based on individual country road-maps drawn up by governments with GM assistance, to be agreed upon with partners. The road-maps will reflect a clear agenda for action to combat land degradation and poverty, as derived, *inter alia*, from the NAPs and other relevant planning frameworks, including interventions at policy and institutional levels, and a core set of field investments. The background and status of implementation of GM interventions, is discussed below.

Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso in recent years, the Government has developed the NAP with financial support of bilateral and multilateral donors, including, *inter alia*, the Netherlands and IFAD. The next steps towards implementing NAP in Burkina Faso will involve a multi-track approach, involving:

- The formulation of local area development programmes (LADPs);

- The identification of the interface between NAP activities and relevant ongoing projects and programmes;

- Arrangements for identification and dissemination of best practices in land-degradation control and related support measures;

- The rationalization of the policy framework with respect to direct and indirect incentive systems for land-degradation control; and

- The establishment of a national desertification fund with prospective contributions from the Government, bilateral/multilateral donors and the private sector.

Attention is also being paid to synergies between conventions as well as institutional strengthening and more focused interventions on the part of the National Coordinating Body, the Conseil National de Gestion de l'Environnement (CONAGES).

In this context, and as agreed with the Government of Burkina Faso, the Global Mechanism has undertaken to support the implementation of the NAP in various ways, including:

- Providing assistance in harmonizing the NAP with the Soil Fertility Initiative supported by the World bank and FAO (in recognition of the linkages between soil fertility and land degradation);

- Supporting methodological approaches for the elaboration of LADPs and the policy dialogue on incentive systems for natural resource management; and

- Exploring funding opportunities (including a National Desertification Fund (NDF)) if deemed appropriate, in close consultation with other interested development partners.

An initial allocation of US$ 130,000 has been earmarked from GM's Special Resources for UNCCD Financing Account (SRCF), as a catalytic resource to support the process described above. The need for additional allocations and the size and timing of such allocations, will be determined in due course, based on the actual disbursements of the initial allocations, the progress made in implementation, and the availability of co-financing opportunities. A programme in support to NAP implementation is under consideration, for which the GM is prepared to provide catalytic support, in consultation with concerned partners.

Mali

Following the 1999 Round Table, the next steps in mobilizing resources, for which the assistance of the Global Mechanism as an "honest broker" has been requested , will involve the identification of the interface between the NAP Priority Action Areas and the ongoing or planned interventions of various donors and specialized agencies. To this end, Mali was selected as one of the pilot countries for the "Business Plan" approach adopted by the GM's Facilitation Committee. The funding gaps and the arrangements for mobilization of additional resources will be identified as a result of a participatory and iterative process, in the context of

the Government's decentralization policies. Special attention will also be given to the establishment of an information system at national level, which would interface with the GM's global database. The Mali database, managed at local level by the concerned institutions, would contain relevant information on flows and sources of funding for UNCCD implementation at national level, as well as information on best practices in land degradation control and support to capacity building at community level. Emphasis would also be placed on assisting, in consultation with development partners, the Government of Mali in harmonizing its public policies in relation to natural resource management. At the same time, the Government would initiate systematic coordination activities with a view to the progressive removal of inconsistencies in the terms and conditions of donor support measures at field level, for the sake of long-term sustainability.

An initial amount of US$ 130,000 was allocated from GM's SRCF account, as catalytic resources in support of the above process. The need for additional allocations and the size and timing of them, will be determined in due course, based on actual disbursements from the initial allocations, progress made in implementation, and the availability of co-financing opportunities. Meanwhile, the GM contribution has been supplemented by technical assistance from FAO totalling an amount equivalent to US$ 50,000, in addition to specific parallel contributions from bilateral and multilateral partners. As part of the Work Plan, agreed to previously, the comparative review of ongoing and planned projects with NAP priorities, is progressing well, while a training session on the information systems has just been held. A meeting of the Joint Commission (Government and donors) will be convened once the comparative review is completed.

Senegal

The Government of Senegal was one of the first to ratify the Convention and to complete its NAP, with support from bilateral and multilateral donors. The Government recently drafted a medium-term priority programme in close collaboration with NGOs and farmers' organizations, including pilot activities to test innovative institutional approaches and co-financing arrangements. On the occasion of contacts between the Global Mechanism and the Senegalese authorities (including the Ministries of Planning, Finance, the Environment and Agriculture and Livestock), the Government reiterated its commitment to earmarking counterpart funds for the priority programme, in an effort to attract external funding.

An iterative and participatory process will be followed in defining the interface and establishing operational linkages between the NAP (including the medium-term priority programme) and other relevant projects supported by multilateral and bilateral donors. This systematic approach will also encompass sectoral programmes and policy initiatives at national and subregional levels, as indicated above for Burkina Faso and Mali, including the harmonization of the NAP with the Soil Fertility Initiative, and the identification of the interface with the national poverty reduction strategy.

At the same time, a set of pilot projects are to be launched by the Government in various agro-ecological zones with emphasis on women and youth, to test a number of parameters that are critical for fully-fledged implementation of the NAP, including:

- The effectiveness of partnership agreements between the Departments and Programmes which have complementary mandates and activities;

- The implementation capacity of the Ministry of the Environment;

- The coordinating and monitoring capacity of the National Coordinating Body, the Conseil Supérieur des Ressources Naturelles et de l'Environnement (CONSERE).

In terms of NAP financing, the need for additional resources and the amount required, will be determined in light of the iterative process above. However, as regards the potential channels for NAP funding, the establishment of a National Desertification Fund has already been subject of extensive discussions between the Government and civil-society organizations. The Global Mechanism, for its part, is prepared to provide technical and financial assistance to move this process forward. Another significant (but not exclusive) financing option would be the re-conversion of the external public debt, in support of the implementation of the NAP as a broad-based, poverty-oriented framework. This would encompass not only support to agricultural production and resource-conservation activities, but also provide a socio-economic infrastructure and allied services as incentives for natural resource management. The Government has drafted a national framework for debt conversion, and the Global Mechanism has undertaken to assist in establishing the necessary linkages with NAP implementation.

An initial allocation of US$ 130,000 has been earmarked from the GM's SRCF Account (to be supplemented by technical assistance from FASO and parallel contributions from bilateral partners), as catalytic resources in support of the process described above. The need for additional allocations and the size and timing of them will be determined in due course, based on actual disbursements from the initial allocations, progress made in implementation, and the availability of co-financing opportunities.

After a period of standstill in NAP implementation (in the context of institutional changes affecting the national coordinating bodies), a NAP re-activation workshop was organized in July 2001, bringing together representatives from the relevant Government Departments, donors and the Managers of programmes with a natural resource management component.

<u>The subregional action programme for West Africa</u>

The SRAP for West and Central Africa was approved at the expert and ministerial levels in Lomé in May 1999, on the occasion of a meeting funded, *inter alia*, by IFAD and the Global Mechanism. Several themes were identified under the SRAP - related to the management of shared water resources, sustainable agriculture and rangeland management, renewable energy, migratory pest control, early warning systems, subregional integration and infrastructure, and communication.

The organizations designated as thematic leaders for the SRAP included one NGO network, intergovernmental bodies, subregional economic integration organizations, and specialized regional technical agencies. The SRAP was adopted by the Heads of State under the aegis of the subregional liaison centres, namely, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). Meanwhile, both liaison centres organized a follow-up seminar, with a financial contribution from the Global Mechanism. The seminar brought together the eight thematic focal points to take stock of the progress made and agree upon a common approach to SRAP implementation. This was

followed by a meeting on shared water resources, with the participation of intergovernmental bodies involved in management of shared river basins and lakes in the West and Central African subregion, at which the participants presented their respective mandates and activities, and the prospects for creating synergies between their interventions and the relevant initiatives at national and subregional levels. The GM is currently supporting two initiatives related to the water resources component of the SRAP, as illustrated below:

(i) Niger/Nigeria: Coordinated Management of Shared Natural Resources (Land and Water) in Shared River Basins

The case of the shared river valleys between Nigeria and Niger (i.e. the Maggia Lamido, the Goulbi Maradi and the El Fadama and the Komadougou Yobe) is a typical example of the role that the Global Mechanism can play in addressing the negative externalities that stem from un-concerted utilization of common water resources.

Over the past two decades, the combined effects of the construction of dams, inefficient irrigation systems, land degradation, erratic rainfall and high evapo-transpiration, have jeopardized the financial viability and the environmental sustainability of investment projects sponsored by the private and public sectors. Previous attempts to implement the 1990 Maiduguri Agreement on equitable management and utilization of shared water resources have fallen short of their objectives, for want of a comprehensive strategic framework and effective linkages with field operations. Against this backdrop, the Global Mechanism recently took the lead, upon request from the World Bank and in collaboration with FAO, in facilitating the elaboration of a strategic plan for implementation of the Maiduguri Agreement. This new initiative has good chances of success, as it takes place within the context of the SRAP West and Central Africa under the UNCCD. It also takes into account that negative externalities are reciprocal and that the two Governments are determined to find a solution acceptable for both parties. The FAO/IC prepared an issues and options paper to this end. A stakeholder workshop was organized in July 2000, under the aegis of ECOWAS, CILSS, and the Niger/Nigeria Joint Cooperation Commission (NNJCC), to review and endorse the strategic plan for implementation of the Maiduguri Agreement. This workshop was co-financed by UNEP/GEF and the Global Mechanism. As a result of the workshop, a GEF Planning Grant of US$ 350,000 was approved. The plan to be developed will include cross-border activities under the auspices of the NNJCC, as well as local level activities that will be covered as part of ongoing or planned donor-funded programmes at field level. It is anticipated that the GEF planning grant will lead to a full GEF project, to co-finance the implementation of strategic plan for sustainable of natural resources (including shared water) in the transboundary areas. The Strategic Plan will also benefit from contributions from various donors either directly, or indirectly, i.e. through their respective programmes at national level. This would be the case of the World Bank, which would provide institutional support to the NNJC through the National 'Fadama' Development Programme, currently under appraisal. To this end, the first Steering Committee meeting took place in June 2001 in Niamey, as a basis for launching the planning phase. The GM, for its part, has undertaken to promote operational linkages between this planning phase and the resulting project with the large number of donor-supported programmes in the area, to avoid duplication of efforts and create synergies.

(ii) The Fouta-Djallon Highlands: A Strategic Action Plan for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

In mid 1999, a meeting held at ministerial level in Bamako, Mali, brought together the Fouta Djallon regional stakeholders and resulted in important decisions including, *inter alia*, provision of an international legal status for the Fouta Djallon Highlands; drafting of a strategic plan for sustainable development of the Fouta Djallon Highlands, in the framework of the SRAP for West and Central Africa; the direct involvement of regional economic integration organizations and funding institutions (ECOWAS and AfDB), as a follow up to previous political sponsorship of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

On the occasion of the first meeting of thematic leaders under the SRAP for West Africa (organized with GM funding) contacts were established with the International Coordination Office for the Fouta-Djallon Highlands Integrated Development Programme sponsored by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Subsequently, the Global Mechanism was formally requested to assist in coordinating the mobilization of international assistance for elaboration of terms of reference for a Strategic Plan of sustainable development. in the Highlands there have been, *inter alia*, problems of land abuse, including overgrazing, deforestation, over-cultivation and bush fire (for fuel wood production). The strategic importance of such a Plan is based on the recognition that sustainable development of the Fouta-Djallon Highlands, also known as the "water tower of West Africa", would be a pre-condition for sustainable resource management of the six major river basins in the eight countries in the region.

GM collaboration with development partners resulted in the organization of a regional stakeholders' workshop (Labé, Guinée) with funding from UNEP/GEF, FAO and the GM at which the terms of reference for the Strategic Plan were elaborated. The formulation exercise will be funded through a GEF planning grant approved in mid-2000. The Global Mechanism is currently promoting the active involvement of other development partners in this process (including members of the GM Facilitation Committee such as the World Bank, IFAD, AfDB, UNDP, and other multilateral and bilateral donors), taking into account, *inter alia*, their current interest in the Senegal and the Niger river basins, as well as the field investments and/or technical assistance to area-based projects funded by them at country level. For the GEF planning and implementation phase, the GM was mandated by the Council of Ministers to mobilize co-financing. The coordination meeting with the ongoing projects in the Highlands was therefore co-financed by the GM and GTZ in February 2001, and the next coordination meeting will be organized in September 2001, back-to-back with the inception mission for the GEF planning studies entrusted to FAO.

Annex III

SUPPORT TO UNCCD IMPLEMENTATION IN NORTH AFRICA

PART ONE: SUPPORT TO NAPS

Algeria

Algeria is presently elaborating its NAP. The GM has allocated US$ 50,000 to support Algeria, following a request received from the country. The GM is also supporting the process along the following lines:

- Establishing a multi-actor partnership framework under a steering committee, to pursue consultative processes, exchange information, raise the awareness of bilateral/multilateral partners, delineate of partnership framework elements to implement the NAP; and ensure their implementation within development pilot projects;

- Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), through studying the current NGO context in the field of sustainable development (their strengths and weaknesses; their expectations) and through organizing a national workshop on the role of NGOs in the NAP implementation process;

- Involving the private sector in combating desertification activities: identifying potential forms and modalities to ensure private-sector financial support to combating desertification and raising private-sector awareness by holding a workshop at the national level and disseminating its recommendations;

- Reinforcing synergies between environmental conventions by organizing a workshop for the national focal points of these conventions on the basis of a preliminary study on the possibilities of strengthening the harmonization of their activities.

A joint initiative between the Directorate-General of Forestry within the Ministry of Agriculture and the GM resulted in the elaboration of an action plan to support the preparation of the NAP and its validation. In this context, the GM has worked in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNDP/UNSO) and has also taken into consideration current and potential inputs from the Sahara and the Sahel Observatory (SSO), the Information Circulation System on Desertification and the Environment-Arab Maghreb Union (SCIDE-AMU), and others.

Egypt

As a follow-up to GM participation in a workshop in Egypt, a request was addressed to the Global Mechanism for support for NAP finalization.

Moreover, in late 1998 the Mayor of Rome proposed that, as part of the Millennium celebrations, the Government of Italy extend debt forgiveness to developing countries, above and beyond those included in the HIPC Initiative, and that this should be linked to activities of the 3 Rome-based food agencies. Since then, FAO, IFAD and the World Food Programme (WFP), under IFAD leadership, have been

collaborating closely with the Rome Municipal Authorities and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in exploring means of rendering operational the proposal. Egypt is one of the four middle-income, severely indebted countries selected and proposed in 1999 for inclusion under the Deepening Debt Relief in Support of Poverty Alleviation and Food Security, a Rome Millenium Initiative. The Global Mechanism is planning to organize a mission in order to define how to ensure that some of the funds mobilized through debt relief will go towards UNCCD implementation.

In July 2000, IFAD organized a mission to Egypt during which IFAD's representative met the national focal point of UNCCD. It was recommended to the local groups created to select and identify eligible projects to consider the allocation of funds for the elaboration of NAP. In this case the GM is providing very small funds that will generate considerable finance to support the NAP in Egypt with partners such as FAO, IFAD and the Italian Government.

Morocco

In 2000, Morocco finalized its NAP, following extensive consultations at local and regional levels. Morocco subsequently requested GM support for the preparation of the National Validation Forum. The Government and the GM engaged in a consultative process with Morocco's main bilateral and multilateral partners active in the field of desertification. This approach resulted, above all, in the initiation, organization and facilitation of two joint missions with UNDP/UNSO, the UNCCD secretariat and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The four priority areas to be discussed during the National Validation Forum were identified:

- Institutional arrangements and mainstreaming issues;
- Resource mobilization and partnership agreements;
- Priority actions and NAP implementation; and
- Participative local development.

Financial and technical support for the preparation of the Forum were agreed upon by the partners. The GM has provided US$ 10,000 towards the cost of the Forum as well as the preparation of a document on Resource Mobilization and Partnership Building presented during the Forum. A Steering Committee was established to ensure coordination and information exchange among key stakeholders.

In the process leading up to the Forum, the GM has, in cooperation with its partners in Government, supported awareness-building activities with key national partners (Finance and Planning), and bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies present in Morocco. These activities have led to NAP visibility within the national budgetary monitoring system. To this end, the monitoring system applied to Special Programmes (i.e. monitoring of global activities undertaken by the respective ministerial departments) will be utilized. Combating desertification has been included as a priority within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). As regards coordination between development partners, Germany has agreed in principle to be the "chef de file" of bilaterals, while UNDP will fulfil this function for the multilateral agencies.

In anticipation of post-Forum activities, the GM has earmarked US$ 50,000 for follow-up actions. The following recommendations of the Validation Forum are noteworthy not only due to their relation to resource mobilization, but also as the outcome of the approach developed by the GM and its partners:

- To broaden the national coordination body to include the two *chefs de file*;
- To mainstream and integrate the NAP in the forthcoming economic and social development plan thereby highlighting the priority given to this issue;
- To establish the NAP as a special programme in order to enable its global budgetary monitoring and ensure its budgetary visibility; and
- To encourage continued GM support to resource mobilization and partnership building, the next key step being a roundtable of all donors present in Morocco.

Tunisia

Tunisia adopted and ratified its NAP in 1998. Tunisia subsequently requested GM assistance to follow through on:

- Integrating the NAP into national strategies and policies as well as into cooperation frameworks of development partners;
- Ensuring that the NAP becomes a point of reference in designing and elaborating five-year socio-economic development plans.

To this end, the strategy adopted by GM and its Tunisian partners consists of:

- Identifying NAP-related priority issues and actions to be taken;
- Seeking the involvement of the main actors both at local and national levels in project design as regards the main issues at stake;
- Involving cooperation partners at all stages of design, consultation, and decision-making processes by means of joint missions;
- Establishing sustainable mechanisms for resource and partner mobilization.

It is expected that this process will be finalized and formalized during the National Forum on Resource and Partner Mobilization planned for September 2001.

A Steering Committee has been set up, fostering cooperation among all partners. Italy and Germany are representing the bilateral partners, while UNDP is representing the multilateral agencies. The most relevant outcome of these coordinated consultations has been the definition of a specific and pragmatic approach to resource and partner mobilization in support of NAP implementation, in which four priority issue have been identified:

- Elaboration of a local development framework;
- Development of a multi-actor consultation mechanism;

- Identification of funding mechanisms and opportunities;

- Evaluation, monitoring, and production of indicators.

GM financial support to the organization of a national workshop amounts to US$ 50,000. The GM has also provided technical support as regards the terms of reference of national consultants and of working groups dealing with specific issues and has covered the costs of the preliminary studies prepared for the national workshop.

Coordination efforts have led Germany and UNDP to agree to be *chefs de file* of bilateral and multilateral agencies respectively. Furthermore, the meetings held during the joint missions organized by the GM have highlighted the relevance of a permanent and well-structured coordination policy among partners, some of whom are the main actors in bilateral or multilateral programmes in support to Tunisia's NAP, namely:

- Germany, which has developed a project to support Tunisia's NAP, under the leadership of GTZ;

- Italy, which has appointed the OSS as the executing agency for the project implementation of a NAP monitoring and evaluation system at a national level;

- Tunisia, which is engaged in two regional projects, SCIDE-AMU and the Desertification Information System in the Mediterranean (DIS-MED), concerning the dissemination of information on desertification (both projects have received funding within the framework of the European Short and Medium-term Action Programmes (SMAP)); and

- UNDP, which has proposed combating desertification as top priority issue in the context of UNDAF.

The process in Tunisia has also led to ensure that the NAP to combat desertification will play feature permanently in the Tenth National Economic and Social Development Plan. The Ministry of Agriculture, whose sectoral strategies will, from now on, take into account the importance of integration and participation aspects, agrees that a special effort will be needed to secure cross-fertilization between Priority Programmes and the NAP objectives. The Ministry of Economic Development has given full support to the idea that the NAP, as a framework of reference for activities directed to combating desertification, deserves a high profile in the tenth Plan. Moreover, the fact that the National Committee to Combat Desertification, chaired by the Minister for the Environment and Regional Planning (MEAT), fully approved NAP as a priority issue within the tenth National Plan of Social and Economic Development, deserves mention. Following this decision, the MEAT is elaborating and proposing a specific text to be inserted within the document relating to the tenth Plan.

PART TWO: SUPPORT TO THE SRAP

At subregional level, the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) has begun implementation of the subregional action programme (SRAP) and has submitted several requests to various partners, including the Global Mechanism (GM).

The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

The member countries of the AMU have elaborated the subregional programme for combating desertification (SRAP) and adopted it during the Algiers Forum held on 20-22 September 1999. SRAP implementation aims at strengthening NAPs, launching transboundary or regional activities, and giving further input to scientific and technical knowledge on combating desertification within member countries.

The AMU General Secretariat has requested GM support in implementing the various components of the SRAP and the GM, in line with the activities and strategies developed at national level with countries of the subregion, has agreed to support SRAP implementation by:

- Strengthening the role of civil society in implementing national and subregional action programmes for combating desertification;

- Identifying ways and means of enhancing the participation of the main actors involved in the decision-making process regarding the implementation of programmes to combat desertification; and

- Setting up a subregional mechanism for resource and partner mobilization.

A total of US$ 100,000 has been allocated to the AMU General Secretariat to pursue these objectives, with the expected results being as follows:

- NGOs and professional associations involved in activities to combat desertification will be identified and their role in national and subregional action programme implementation will be defined;

- Mechanisms to coordinate and exchange experiences and information among civil society representatives will be created at subregional level; and

- A subregional mechanism for resources and partners mobilization will be set up to benefit NAPs and SRAPs to combat desertification.

Annex IV

SUPPORT TO UNCCD IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA

PART ONE: SUPPORT TO NAPS

Islamic Republic of Iran

Responding to a formal request, the GM undertook a mission to Iran from 4-9 May 2001, to identify areas of cooperation for NAP finalization and implementation. High level consultations were held with Ministries of Finance and Natural Resources and with other stakeholders. The areas of intervention agreed upon were:

- To develop a consultative process for resource mobilization and partnership building;
- To integrate UNCCD objectives into National Development Planning;
- To harmonize sectoral activities;
- To build capacity at all levels, taking into consideration the special needs of local communities.

The GM has allocated US$ 100,000 for these areas of intervention, and it is anticipated that this catalytic funding will strengthen implementation of the NAP in Iran.

Kazakhstan

The GM has been working in close partnership with the World Bank and other multilateral agencies to develop the Dryland Management Project (DMP) in Kazakhstan. The DMP, involving the active participation of local communities, will provide assistance to the Government of Kazakhstan:

- To develop alternative land uses, and rehabilitate ecosystems for conservation of plant and animal biodiversity;
- To quantify and monitor carbon sequestration;
- To build and promote capacity, public awareness and develop a strategy for replication of project activities in other similar areas of Kazakhstan, and in the Aral Basin as a whole.

A GEF PDF-B grant of US$ 350,000 has been approved and the DMP is in the project preparation phase. The project Preparation Unit has been staffed and international and local consultants have been recruited. The GM has provided US$ 18,750 to assist the Government in project preparation.

Pakistan

Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment (SCOPE) - World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-SCOPE Joint Wildlife Protected Areas Project of Tharparker

The Tharparker District in Pakistan is high in endemism and has a significant diversity of species. Both, SCOPE and the WWF have developed individual projects to address threats to this unique ecosystem, although concentrating on different aspects of conservation. While the WWF's project focuses on technical aspects of conservation within the protected area, SCOPE is undertaking work with communities in the buffer zone, to integrate wildlife management with development of sustainable livelihoods, and drought and desertification mitigation. To increase overall conservation and socio-economic benefits, UNDP is working to merge these two projects, and is formulating a proposal for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to obtain a Project Development Facility Block-A grant (PDF-A). The GM has provided US$ 7,200 to assist SCOPE conceptualize its project activities in context of UNDP's PDF-A proposal for developing a holistic approach to natural resources management in the District. The GM's support will support SCOPE in project preparation, through local consultations, a baseline survey, identification of barriers in local area development, investment tools etc. It is expected that this modest support will assist in generating substantive resources for sustainable management in this area.

Indonesia

Indonesia is in the process of formulating a national action programme using a bottom-up approach involving local communities and local Government. During the first national workshop held in Bogor on 13 June 2000, it was decided that the implementation of UNCCD in Indonesia would concentrate on the three driest provinces, namely Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB), Nua Tenggara Timu (NTT), and Central Sulawesi (Sulteng).

Indonesia has requested GM's catalytic support to formulate the NAP. This process will include: preparatory meetings in three provinces involving all related Parties; a workshop for the formulation of NAP in Lombok (NTB) in which local government representatives, NGOs, universities, and research institutions from three provinces and national authorities, will participate; a national workshop attended by national policy makers related institutions/ministries, national NGOs, etc.; and adoption, reproduction and distribution of the NAP document.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka signed and ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1995 and 1998, respectively. The Ministry of Forestry and Environment, is the national focal point of the UNCCD.

Sri Lanka has requested GM's support to formulate the NAP to combat land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought. It is envisaged that a participatory process involving all relevant stakeholders will be initiated, and efforts will be taken to build partnerships between the Public Sector Line Agencies, NGOs, the private sector and affected communities. Four main partners will support the Government of Sri Lanka in the NAP formulation process: the UNCCD secretariat, the Global Mechanism, the Government of the Netherlands and the World Bank. The Government of Sri Lanka is committed to providing in-kind contributions.

Vietnam

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has sought the Global Mechanism's support in with the main objectives of reviewing the status of land use change, desertification, land degradation, sand dune movement, drought, and their environmental and socio-economic impacts. GM support will involve:

- Analysing the implementation of policies and activities to tackle the above -mentioned phenomena and mitigate their impacts;
- Drafting a national action programme to combat land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought;
- Formulating prototype pilot activities to rehabilitate degraded lands, promote reafforestation and re-vegetation and improve water harvesting measures at field level and involving local populations; and
- Building partnerships to collaborate with civil society, donor agencies.

The Government of Vietnam shall organize a workshop for supporting the formulation of the NAP in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat, the Global Mechanism and co-sponsoring governments and agencies.

PART TWO: SUPPORT TO THE RAP

Regional Technical Assistance Programme (RAP) to Support Asian Countries (RETA) - a partnership with the Asian Development Bank (AsDB)

The GM has co-financed an AsDB-initiated regional technical assistance group to assist Asian countries, including China, Mongolia, India, Pakistan and Central Asian countries, in identifying barriers to UNCCD mainstreaming.

Since the launching of the RETA programme at the Third Regional Meeting of UNCCD National Focal Points in Asia (7-8 November 2000 in Bangkok), two partnerships have emerged.

Firstly, in China, RETA resources are being used to build a bridge between the NAP and a partnership proposal between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The proposal outlines the process for building synergies between the Agenda 21 conventions and for integrating dryland concerns into the GEF's Country Programming Framework (CPF) for China. A Project Development Facility - Block B (PDF-B) has been approved amounting to US$ 350,000. To match these funds, AsDB will provide US$ 800,000 and the Government of China US$ 290,000, totalling 1.44 million for project preparation.

Secondly, a MoU has been finalized between the UNCCD Project of GTZ and RETA. The UNCCD Project of GTZ has earmarked approximately US$ 1.5 million for the Asia region. Initially, RETA will work in close cooperation with the UNCCD Project of GTZ to harmonize activities in the Central Asian Republics (CARs). RETA will complement field level activities of the UNCCD Project of GTZ, by providing technical assistance to assess the overall policy, legislative and institutional context of the CARs and integrate the UNCCD into National Development Planning. Similar partnership agreements will be pursued with other bilateral agencies for harmonizing support in the Asia region as a whole.

PART THREE: SUPPORT TO SRAPS

Subregional action programme to combat desertification for Central Asia (SRAP-CD)

In recognition of common environmental and socio-economic conditions in the Aral Sea Basin, the UNCCD secretariat organized the launching of the SRAP for Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (17-20 July 2000). The second meeting of the SRAP for Central Asia (26-27 April 2001, Almaty, Kazakhstan), narrowed down a list of eleven priority areas which were identified in Bishkek, to five priorities for immediate action:

- Monitoring and assessment of desertification;
- Water-use and soil management;
- Agro-forestry and forest resource management;
- Rangeland management;
- Biodiversity conservation.

Each of the Central Asian Republics selected one or more of these priority areas for initiating pilot activities. The GM has allocated US$ 100,000 to support the elaboration of the preparatory phase of the SRAP and initiate pilot activities. GM support to this phase will focus on establishing a strong foundation for cooperation in the subregion between the country Parties and with bilateral and multilateral agencies, with the aim of optimizing and increasing resources for combating desertification. In addition, GM support to the planning of pilot projects in the selected countries will focus on ensuring long-term financial sustainability and replication of these pilot projects within the subregion. It is expected that the pilot projects will facilitate NAP implementation, and also feed into work of the Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs) and the RAP.

West Asia subregional action programme to combat desertification (WASRAP)

The core activities of the WASRAP are tied to two Thematic Networks (TNs): Sustainable Management of Water Resources (TN1) and Sustainable Management of Vegetative Cover (TN2). GM support totalling US$ 150,000 for launching the implementation phase of WASRAP is being channelled through the United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA). As the implementing agency for the SRAP, UNEP/ROWA is coordinating its work with that of the two executing agencies - the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) for TN1, and the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Areas (ACSAD) for TN2.

As follow up to the launching of WASRAP, the GM is working in partnership with ICARDA and ACSAD for the development of an Integrated Natural Resource Management project. A project proposal of approximately US$ 5 million has been developed for submission to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund (OPEC Fund), for consideration at its Governing Board meeting scheduled for the autumn of 2001. In addition to ICARDA and ACSAD, technical and financial support will be sought from the UNDP Office to Combat Desertification (UNDP/UNSO), UNEP/ROWA and other institutions and donors in the region. As a member of the WASRAP Management Committee, the GM is working in close cooperation with UNEP/ROWA to coordinate this initiative.

PART FOUR: SUPPORT TO THE THEMATIC PROGRAMME NETWORKS (TPNS)

Rangeland Management in Arid Areas including the Fixation of Shifting Sand Dunes (TPN3)

The GM channelled US$ 50,000 through the UNCCD secretariat for facilitating the *launching of TPN3* and for follow up activities. The launching meeting for TPN3 was held in Yazd, Iran on 7-9 May 2001. It clearly defined the mandate, structure and programme of work of the network. As requested by the participants, the GM will continue to support the network and allocate resources for the above purposes.

Thematic Programme Network on Water Resource Management for Agriculture in Drylands (TPN4)

At the third Conference of the Parties (COP 3), the Asian Group of the UNCCD selected Syria to host TPN4. The Syrian Government responded by equipping and staffing the focal node for this network, and has been working in close partnership with the UNCCD secretariat to establish the network. The GM has allocated US$ 50,000 for funding conceptual work to ensure that a resource mobilization strategy is developed at an early stage into the process of network elaboration. These resources will also guide the delineation of the role, functions and institutional arrangements of the network, as well as finance necessary organizational arrangements of the launching meeting of the network scheduled for autumn 2001.

PART FIVE: SUPPORT TO NGOS

Strategic Partnership Agreement for Implementation of UNCCD - a partnership between GM and GTZ's UNCCD Project

The GM has allocated US$ 100,000 through its Community Exchange and Training Programme (CETP) to assist NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the Central Asia subregion. This money will be combined with resources of the UNCCD Project of GTZ for mobilizing NGOs in the region. Initially, the focus will be on the Central Asian subregion. Based on lessons learned in the CARs, activities will be expanded into other subregions of Asia.

PART SIX: SUPPORT TO THE WEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA (WANA MINISTERIAL MEETING)

Ministerial Meeting with Donor Agencies to Discuss Opportunities for Sustainable Investment in Rainfed Areas of West Asia and North Africa (WANA)

In the context of the GM's mandate, the COP directives and the GM's Operational Strategy, a partnership was forged between six funding agencies: the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFSED), OPEC FUND, IDB, IFAD, World Bank and the GM, where the GM was designated as the coordinator for planning and implementing the preparations for the Ministerial Meeting on sustainable investment for rain-fed areas in the North Africa and West Asia (WANA).

All in all, the funding agencies contributed US$ 321,000 through the GM. The GM's own contribution represented only 18% of the total resources allocated, indicating achievement of a high multiplying effect.

The GM was responsible for the preparation of both the Ministerial Meeting and the preceding technical preparatory meeting convened in Cairo on 13-14 May 2001 under the patronage of the Deputy Prime Minister and hosted by the Government of Egypt. The meeting report and recommendations have been widely circulated among the countries, the donor agencies and the financing institutions.

The Ministerial Meeting was held in Rabat, Morocco on 25-26 of June 2001, under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, and opened by H.E., the Prime Minister of the Government of Morocco. Ministers of Finance, Agriculture and Environment attended it from the thirteen countries of the two subregions, as well as by representatives of bilateral and multilateral agencies.

The meeting adopted the Rabat Declaration and endorsed a framework for a regional programme and a set of recommendations that will enhance their national efforts to implement the Convention and strengthen collaboration between themselves and the donor community through engaged partnerships. The participating countries agreed to forge a partnership that will focus on the overall sustainable development of drylands in WANA. They emphasised their long-term commitment to reducing poverty, arresting desertification, enhancing socio-economic growth and diversifying economic opportunities in these areas, as well as to supporting the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. To realize these goals, they agreed to give higher priority to resource allocation to rainfed areas.

In particular, they emphasized the need:

- To develop appropriate policies and implement integrated drought management strategies;

- To develop and implement a regional approach to drought preparedness;

- To provide appropriate incentives and safety nets that encourage rural communities to undertake environmentally friendly land-use practices to combat desertification and natural resource degradation and consequently adopt improved national policies and strategies to that end;

- To strengthen institutional arrangements and mechanisms for more effective participation of the local communities and civil society in defining the priorities for investment;

- To identify investment opportunities for both the private and public sectors to improve the social and economic infrastructure necessary for dryland development;

- To examine the potential for all projects aiming at mitigating climate change.

They also endorsed the development of a programme for the drylands of WANA which will build a foundation for regional cooperation; promote technical collaboration; share local and global information and knowledge; strengthen national capacities to facilitate the design and implementation of national policy and institutional improvements as well as investment programmes. It will also support the implementation of United Nations conventions such as the Convention to Combat Desertification and promote synergies between the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD.

The GM was entrusted by the co-sponsors of the meeting to pursue the formulation of the programme in close cooperation with all the countries and organizations concerned.

Annex V

SUPPORT TO UNCCD IMPLEMENTATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PART ONE: SUPPORT TO NAPS

Argentina

The GM has been approached by various institutions in Argentina. At national level, financial support from the GM was provided for a workshop for the final selection of indicators of land degradation and desertification. This workshop selected a set of indicators in pilot communities for their evaluation and validation, and established links with GTZ supported national initiatives for land degradation indicators in other countries such as Mexico and Chile.

The Global Mechanism will focus on partnership building, drawing upon the ongoing efforts of the Government, the Environmental Institutional Development Programme, the Inter-American Development Bank/Secretariat of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development (BID/SRNDS), the National Desertification Institute of Technology in Agriculture (INTA), the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (Apoyo PAN/GTZ) and the international support of United Nations agencies such as FAO, UNEP and UNDP. The GM has allocated US$ 50,000 as a catalytic resource in support of the above activities and to initiate the process of NAP implementation.

In the context of GEF and land degradation, the GM is responding to requests from the national authorities with the aim of supporting the implementation of the Convention at local, provincial, national and transboundary levels. The GM is co-financier of GEF PDF proposals such as the Small Farmer Integrated Ecosystem Management Project, whose main goals are reducing the loss of biodiversity, reversing land degradation, and increasing the proportion of sequestered carbon in production ecosystems in 3-5 priority eco-regions. Another GEF proposal for Sustainable Livestock Production to Control Desertification in Patagonia (covering 5 provinces of the country), is under consideration, and it is proposed that the GM could help mobilize co-financing.

Brazil

Brazil is presently elaborating its NAP and to this end the UNCCD national focal points have requested GM assistance. The GM's contribution will consist of supporting NAP implementation by fostering the participation of decentralized administrations and local communities. A pilot implementation phase will begin in the State of Pernambuco where a Local Action Plan will be designed and implemented. The GM has allocated an amount of US$ 50,000 to support the NAP process. GM funding will allow for:

- Coordinating the UNCCD implementation process with the overall national macroeconomic planning processes (National Development Plans, Rural Poverty Alleviation Strategy, Regional Integration and decentralization Policy, etc.) and with the sectoral planning documents (Rural development, National Environmental Action Plan, and the other Rio conventions' Action Plans - Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change);

- Forging partnerships and consensus between all stakeholders;

- Developing innovative approaches such as UNCCD Local Action Programmes at a municipality level, to foster NGO's and CBO's participation and stakeholder mobilization;

- Levering additional funding from other donors and international NGOs.

States, municipalities, local NGOs and rural communities of the north-east region of the country will be the main stakeholders in the process.

Chile

In Chile the national action programme has been developed using a participatory approach involving central and local administrations, NGOs and local communities. The programme indicates practical steps and measures to be taken to combat desertification. The Chilean national focal point has formally requested GM assistance to support NAP implementation. An initial allocation from the GM to support the NAP process, will enable the Government to raise additional funding with other donors and international NGOs to support the implementation of the Convention and the NAP review phase. The terms of reference for a consultancy to review the Chilean NAP and the opportunities for potential investments have been prepared and brought to the attention of the appropriate governmental authorities in order to initiate as soon as possible the corresponding agreements and finalize formulation.

Colombia and the Dominican Republic

Formal requests have been received from the Dominican Republic and Colombia. The main objective of these requests is to support the elaboration and adoption of the NAPs in these countries by providing financial support for technical assistance, operating costs, participatory workshops and information/communication activities. The expected output is the elaboration of the NAP and its adoption by all the stakeholders involved in the process (government, central and local authorities, local communities, NGOs, private sector) on the basis of partnership building and participatory approach). The terms of reference for consultancies in both countries have been prepared and brought to the attention of the appropriate governmental authorities in order to initiate the corresponding agreements and document formulation.

Cuba

The GM will finance the development of the second phase of the Rio Cauto Basin project in Cuba through a 2 month consultancy to prepare terms of reference, and a financial support programme which will include a module based structure, i.e. for training and other activities to be defined. The GM allocation aims at achieving co-financing from bilaterals, taking into account the main axis of action identified from the experiences of the first stage of the Rio Cauto, which include the social and economical development of affected areas, training in the use of successful technologies, and a methodology for the elaboration of Cuba's NAP.

Ecuador

The GM's entry point for supporting UNCCD implementation in this country is the recently agreed debt swap operation between Italy and Ecuador. The main objective of the debt swap in Ecuador defined in the GM's Operational Strategy, is to develop and implement innovative sources of funding for UNCCD implementation. Thanks to close linkages established within the host institution IFAD and FAO/WFP, the GM is actively working with Ecuador in search of the critical link between debt relief and public and foreign investments in dryland management. As a pilot action under the UNCCD framework, the GM initiative will provide policy makers, UNCCD national focal points, NGOs and other interested stakeholders with information and practical experience on implementing debt-for-environment swaps and will assist them in carrying out these operations at national level. The expected output of GM support for this initiative is:

- Implementation of Debt-for-Environment Swap operations in Ecuador to fund pilot projects/activities as identified by the respective UNCCD NAP, national environmental action plan (NEAP) and other action programmes (APs), in line with the framework which already exists for project formulation;

- A network of stakeholders set up at regional level to support potential broad adoption/implementation of such operations on the basis of the respective national policies and strategies;

- Region-wide feasibility research to analyse the financial terms of potential debt swap operations within the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region and to evaluate swap costs and risks;

- Enhanced capacity of institutions, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders in terms of project management and implementation.

PART TWO: SUBREGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES (SRAPS)

Several countries within the region have joined efforts in subregional initiatives:

- Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay are involved in a subregional programme addressing common problems confronting the Gran Chaco Americano region, the largest dryland ecosystem in Latin America;

- Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru have launched a joint programme for the sustainable development of the Andes region of La Puna;

- Seven Central America countries - Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama - and the five southernmost states of Mexico are involved in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

The arid and semi-arid forestland and rangeland within the three areas still contain most of the original animal and plant biodiversity, which is of global significance. At the same time, 60% of the total population living in the three areas, is believed to be living below the poverty threshold. These ecosystems are characterized by severe degradation of natural resources mainly due to their high fragility and to the irreversibility of some biological and socio-economic processes.

The Global Mechanism is supporting the three subregional action programmes (SRAPs) involving a total of 13 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru in South America; Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama in Central America). The main objective of GM support is to harmonize, complement and increase the efficiency of the NAP and to build a platform to design and implement a region-wide programme on dryland rehabilitation and sustainable management. In line with the requests from the Governments involved, the GM will:

- Support regional cooperation by facilitating the political and operational dialogue among the six countries involved in the two initiatives;
- Assure the projects will be country-driven (under the strategic framework of the respective UNCCD NAPs priorities);
- Support the partnership building process between the various countries and stakeholders involved (decentralized administrations, local communities, NGOs, CBOs, donors and private sector);
- Consolidate the partnership already established (GTZ, Spain, UNDP) and to start up new ones (EU, GEF, French Fund for the World Environment (FFEM)) with other financial partners;
- Promote operational approaches based on local community involvement, rural-poverty alleviation, dryland rehabilitation and management and biodiversity and conservation;
- Formulate investment programmes eligible for GEF/FFEM funding.

The subregional projects aim at providing examples of how investment projects can achieve complementary local, national and global objectives and how dryland rehabilitation and management and poverty alleviation can positively interact with biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation measures.

El Gran Chaco Americano

El Gran Chaco Americano includes the centre-north area of Argentina, the west region of Paraguay, and the south-eastern provinces of Bolivia. This region is an integral ecological unit and of global significance due to its size and its important biodiversity resources. To support the process of partnership-building within the Chaco region, the GM is supporting the relevant authorities in the region and the countries in organizing a high-level governors' meeting of El Gran Chaco Americano, planned for 6 and 7 September 2001, in Resistencia, Argentina. In addition to the Governors of the three countries, it is anticipated that Central Government Ministers and representatives of the donor community will participate. The main objective of the meeting is to forge a partnership between local/national governments and development agencies as a basis for working towards the sustainable development of El Gran Chaco Americano.

Central America

During COP 4 in Bonn in December 2000, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama submitted a request to the GM to assist them in the preparation of a subregional programme. The objective of this programme is to enlarge the scope of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (presently concentrated in the humid and sub-humid ecosystems) to also include the dryland areas (arid and semi-arid ecosystems). The terms of reference for a consultancy have been prepared have been submitted to the requesting countries. The consultant's main task will be to develop a specific methodology to foster the participation of indigenous peoples and local rural communities in activities to combat desertification and land degradation, and to foster the use of traditional knowledge.

La Puna Americana subregional action programme

The Puna Americana is an extensive dryland ecosystem located in the Andean Mountains of South America. This region, situated at an altitude ranging from 2800 to 5000 metres above sea level, encompasses large parts of the national territories of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru. Over recent decades, the Puna Americana has suffered extreme environmental degradation closely linked to socio-economic deterioration. Building on the experience of UNDP/UNSO in subregional cooperation for dryland development, representatives of each country met in Santiago de Chile in June 1998 to establish the subregional action programme process for the Puna Americana.

During COP 4, the Global Mechanism met the group of countries of the Sustainable Development Project of the Puna Americana (Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile) with the aim of developing a common strategy for the Puna, to improve the quality of life and protect the ecosystems affected by desertification in this area. Given the importance of these objectives, a follow-up meeting with a wider constituency from the delegations was organized and sponsored by the GM and partly co-financed by UNSO, GTZ and COSUEDE, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in May 2001, and was attended by 32 participants from the five countries. The main objectives of the meeting were to review and improve the objectives and priority actions. An important outcome was the establishment of a follow-up structure of joint initiatives, consisting in the creation of a secretariat and an Executive Committee for the Puna Americana formed by both focal points and representatives of the indigenous populations. The secretariat's functions include the coordination of activities and the search for interaction between potential development partners.

The Transboundary Programme for the Island of Hispaniola

The challenge of effectively addressing the problem of land use practices has been expressed by representatives of the Governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In response to this challenge, the GM is supporting the development of a bi-national programme entitled, Analysis of Desertification and Biodiversity in the frontier zone of Haiti and the Dominican Republic on the Island of Hispaniola, by allocating catalysing funds to contribute to the development of an Inter-ministerial Working Group, and to evaluate the current situation to be presented at the next COP. It is envisaged that a common framework of action for these two countries, will not only improve current institutional arrangements, but will also enhance technical capacities. The partnerships with NGOs and concerned community-based organizations are important aspects in formulating the initiative.

PART THREE: SUPPORT TO NGOS

GM assistance to NGOs in LAC takes place in the context of the Community Exchange and Training Programme, which is spearheaded by the GM and RIOD. Examples of NGO initiatives with current or prospective GM support, are mentioned below.

Argentina

Within the framework of the Community Exchange Programme (CEP) and following through on collaboration with GTZ, four proposals from NGOs in Argentina have been analyzed and ranked for their eligibility. They cover the priority areas of the GM and the priority geographical areas addressed by the NAP. The project presented by INTA Esquel (Consortium of Small Producers in the Mapuche Cushamen Reserve) is located in Patagonia. It is based on using local experiences in sustainable resource management to improve the living conditions of the indigenous Mapuche population. A second project promoted by a network of seven local NGOs aims at contributing to mitigating desertification processes, through the recovery, improvement and adoption of sustainable technologies by promoting the strengthening of links between local peasant and indigenous small producers' organizations. The project will directly benefit over 1,500 people, including areas of the Puna Americana. The NGO APENOC promotes the exchange of organizational experiences and practices of small producers in the province of Cordoba through workshops on the exchange of information. A project proposal submitted by the Red Puna NGOs network for the sustainable use of natural resources in the Jujuy province, located in the Puna area, is involved in training local communities in sustainable management of natural resources, facilitating the exchange of experiences among farmer organizations and through financial support to small producers for the implementation of sustainable production practices. The initiative is aiming at supporting ongoing activities and is benefiting over 400 families from 20 communities.

Brazil

The GM is supporting the creation of Desertification Control Units in the Brazilian Semi-Arid Ecosystem of Sertoa. Submitted by the Instituto Desert, a local NGO from the Piaui State of Brazil, this project is in line with GM's policy to support Local Action Plans. The initiative will have a substantial financial contribution from the Local Government, and is coherent with the objectives of the ECP. It will implement innovative pilot activities and prepare the ground for future investments, with the main focus on dryland rehabilitation and sustainable development. The project will benefit 300 families and almost 1800 people by improving smallholders' and farmers' capacity in sustainable rural development activities.

Peru

An initiative is being undertaken with a Peruvian local NGO, Central Peruana de Servicios (CEPESER), which since its creation in 1983 is working on combating desertification in the Piura region of Northern Peru. CEPESER focuses its activities on the rational use and management of the dry Algarrobo forest (Prosopis Pallida), as an alternative livelihood for the landless rural population, thus contributing to curbing the process of desertification, introducing clean technologies and generating self employment. CEPESER has also developed various initiatives with rural groups in the semi-arid mountainous zone, creating an operational framework by involving the rural population in the management of their micro-basins, in an attempt to control the critical factors undermining their development.

The financial support of the Global Mechanism will be directed towards the exchange of experiences and the distribution of potato seed to 15 communities in the arid zones of the Piura region. This exchange of traditional knowledge is a concrete contribution to poor rural communities, where food insecurity is a constant threat. This will be implemented through a technical workshop and field visits to selected districts and provinces of the affected region.

The Puna Region

A request has been received from the Parliament of the Aymara nation, an indigenous NGO based in Bolivia for a project on the exchange of experiences amongst indigenous Aymara communities in the Puna Americana subregion, embracing Bolivia, northern Argentina, northern Chile and southern Peru. The Aymaras are an indigenous group with a population of over 6 million people distributed within four countries of the Puna subregion. The main purpose of the project is, through the exchange of experiences, including traditional technologies and knowledge amongst local communities, to improve communication with the aim of establishing a sustainable development programme for the Aymara indigenous communities and other native nations in the Puna subregion. Activities will include the organization with the support of the GM, of three meetings of the Parliament of the Aymara Nation, scheduled between August and December 2001.

PART FOUR: THE REGION-WIDE PROGRAMME

As part of an effort to expand the GM's current support to the NAP processes in selected LAC countries, on demand, a region-wide programme is under formulation, as a platform for partnership. This initiative falls within the framework developed by the Global Mechanism for a joint partnership with IFAD, IDB, and bilateral donors to launch a programme (the Region Wide Programme to Combat Land Degradation) in the LAC region. Multilateral and bilateral agencies are already supporting the implementation of the UNCCD, either through their project portfolio, or through the elaboration and adoption of an operational strategy. This programme, in which IFAD is one of the main partners, would translate into action the firm commitment to alleviate rural poverty in the LAC region, where desertification and land degradation are closely linked to socio-economic problems and affect vast drylands ecosystems. To this end, a strong operational effort on a region-driven basis has been envisaged to mobilize synergies in financing programmes to support the UNCCD implementation. The main thrust of the GM's effort has been to help identify, at national and subregional levels, the priority areas in which the region-wide programme can become operational, taking into consideration both priorities and mandates of the organizations involved. Within this framework, real opportunities for spreading IFAD's knowledge and drawing on its capacities as a new GEF executing agency, in particular in the El Gran Chaco Americano region, will be created. In particular, the following activities are being considered:

- Establishment of coordination, consultation and implementation mechanisms between the concerned countries;

- Establishment of a participatory and flexible platform to support broader participation in the decision-making process; and

- Design and implementation of multi-donor investment programmes targeted to drylands sustainable development, rural poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation.

Annex VI

FINANCIAL INFORMATION ENGINE ON LAND DEGRADATION (FIELD)

Overview

Since presenting the Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD) at COP 4, the GM has pursued its efforts towards full-scale implementation of the system, focusing on establishing a decentralized and participatory knowledge-sharing approach. In this context, several initiatives have been taken to collect relevant data from a multitude of sources, and to involve the stakeholders in developing and testing the functional and technical features of the system on a pilot basis.

Rationale and guiding principles

One of the GM's guiding principles and action areas is to build and maintain an interactive knowledge management system providing information on actual and potential sources and channels of funding, available to implement the Convention, and on the financial needs of affected developing country Parties in order for them to render operational their action programmes, as well as other relevant activities related to the implementation of the Convention (decision 24/COP.1, annex).

Knowledge sharing: Opportunities and challenges

Collecting and disseminating information on supply, demand and flows of funding is one of the main functions of the GM. The Parties to the Convention established that the GM would perform this function on the basis of the reports submitted to the COP and all other available data (decision 24/COP.1, annex). The Parties also adopted procedures for organizing and streamlining the communication of information so that, *inter alia*, the GM would have access to the data necessary to carry out its mandate, and to ensure that information on implementation would be in the public domain (decision 11/COP.1).

The GM intends to facilitate access to public domain information on UNCCD financing, through the development of FIELD. Relevant data is found in reports, publications, proprietary databases, web-sites, networks and other information systems. FIELD offers a comprehensive electronic catalogue of these data and provides pointers to the original sources of information. This catalogue is distributed freely on the Internet, on CD-ROMs and in hard copy.

FIELD draws on existing sources of information, and adds value to them by increasing their visibility. Moreover, FIELD encourages a proactive exchange of information between the stakeholders by providing a common platform for data collection, classification and communication. In this regard, FIELD is becoming a participatory and decentralized knowledge management system. By sharing relevant knowledge, institutions and practitioners contribute to create a conducive environment for partnership building, informed decision making, and optimized resource allocation for UNCCD implementation.

More specifically, better access to information accumulated worldwide allows for the identification of gaps and opportunities, the evaluation of funding trends and the conducting of financial analyses, which can be used to support a policy dialogue between affected countries and development partners, to undertake knowledge-based initiatives and to monitor their results. For this reason, the GM is positioning FIELD at the heart of its resource mobilization strategy.

Overview of activities undertaken since COP 4

In conformity with the provisions of the UNCCD and with decisions 24/COP.1, 25/COP.1 and 9/COP.3, the GM is progressively building-up inventories of financial resources, needs and flows to combat desertification. These inventories are organized in the form of a comprehensive information system that captures various aspects of UNCCD financing, including sources and amount of funding available, eligibility criteria, programme and project proposals, financial needs, country profile, lessons learned, good practices and other relevant data.

A first prototype of this information system (FIELD) was released in July 2000 for testing, and was presented at a side event during the fourth session of the COP. Full scale implementation of FIELD is now in progress. In particular, on the basis of the feedback collected during the test phase and of the requirements expressed by the stakeholders, an in-depth technical analysis was launched in 2001 in order to study the issues and options associated with the development of the various components of the FIELD system. It is expected that this analysis will produce a detailed outline of the solutions to be developed in order to finalize the FIELD prototype.

Since one of the main comparative advantages of the FIELD system is that information is collected "at source" in close collaboration with the data owners, pilot activities have been carried out in 2001 with several countries and institutions, including Mali, Belgium, and the European Community. These activities allowed for the testing of the functioning and relevance of FIELD, and to populate it with large datasets.

In addition, while working on the establishment of tools and procedures to facilitate the exchange of data between existing information systems, the GM sent a questionnaire to all bilateral donors requesting their input on specific resources, programmes, projects and other information of relevance to the UNCCD. The responses received enabled the GM to complement the information already collected from a number of information sources, including national reports to the COP, web-sites, databases and publications. After this initial data collection phase, aimed at rapidly building up a critical mass of data, the GM objective is progressively to entrust local knowledge nodes with interactive access to FIELD in order to ensure data quality and regular information updates.

The outcome of the above activities is incorporated in the second version of the FIELD CD-ROM to be distributed during the fifth session of the COP, as well as in the on-line version of FIELD that can be accessed from the GM website at the following address: http://www.gm-unccd.org/field.htm.

In the first half of 2001, collaboration with IFAD has been consolidated and expanded to cover various subjects closely related to FIELD, such as: the design of a knowledge management proposal aiming at strengthening IFAD's capacity to mainstream environment and natural resource management through developing information and knowledge resources, tools and capacity-building activities; the design of an outreach programme targeting private US foundations; and the upgrading of the GM web-site, to offer more substantive information on a new user-friendly interface.

As indicated in the GM Work Plan and Budget for 2001, these and other activities will continue to be implemented during the second half of 2001, with the objective of finalizing a first release version of FIELD, of collecting and disseminating relevant data from major multilateral organizations, and of promoting data sharing practices at country and subregional levels.

Annex VII

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACSAD	Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFSED	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APENOC	Asociación de Productores del Noreste de Córdoba
AsDB	Asian Development Bank
BID/SRNDS	Inter-American Development Bank/ Secretariat of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development
CAR	Central Asian Republics
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community-based organization
CDI	Capacity Development Initiative
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEP	Community Exchange Programme
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CONAGES	National Council for Environment and Water
CONSERE	Conseil Supérieur des Ressources Naturelles et de l'Environnement
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPF	Country Programming Framework
DESELAC	Information Network on Desertification and Drought in Latin America and the Caribbean
DIS-MED	Desertification Information System in the Mediterranean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FC	Facilitation Committee
FFEM	French Funds for the World Environment
FIELD	Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEFSEC	Global Environment Facility Secretariat
GM	Global Mechanism
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
ICRISAT	International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
ILWM	Integrated Land and Water Management
INTA	National Desertification Institute of Technology in Agriculture
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LADP	Local Area Development Programme
MEAT	Minister for the Environment and Regional Planning
MFI	Multilateral Financing Institutions
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Programme

NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NDF	National Desertification Fund
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NTB	Nusa Tenggara Barat
NTT	Nua Tenggara Timu
OAU	Organization of African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD/DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee
OP	Operational Programme
OPEC FUND	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund
PDF	Project Development Fund
RAP	Regional Action Programme
RETA	Regional Technical Assistance grant to combat land degradation and poverty in Asia
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SCIDE	Information Circulation System on Desertification and the Environment
SCOPE	Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment
SMAP	Short and Medium-term Action Programmes
SRCF	Special Resources for UNCCD Financing Account
SSFSA	Subregional Support Facility for Southern Africa
SSO	The Sahara and the Sahel Observatory
SFPSA	Subregional Framework of Partnership for Capacity Building and Resource Mobilisation in Southern Africa
SRAP	Subregional Action Programme
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant
TPN	Thematic Programme Network
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP/ROWA	United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSO	UNDP Office to Combat Desertification and Drought
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASRAP	Subregional Action Programme for West Asia
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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